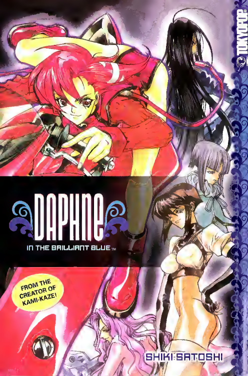

DAPHNE

IN THE BRILLIANT BLUE™

SHIKI SATOSHI

FROM THE CREATOR OF KAMI-KAZE!
TOKYOPOP
1

TOKYOPOP

DAPHNE

IN THE BRILLIANT BLUE™

76

TEU

MANGA

FROM
CREATOR OF
KAMI-KAZE!

SHIKI SATOSHI

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11

Chapter 1 ... HELLO! 005
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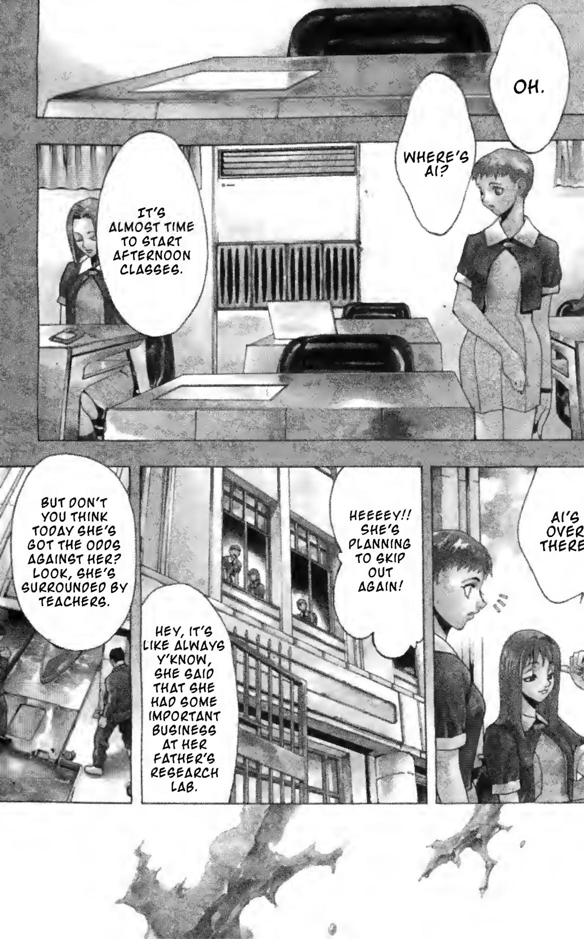
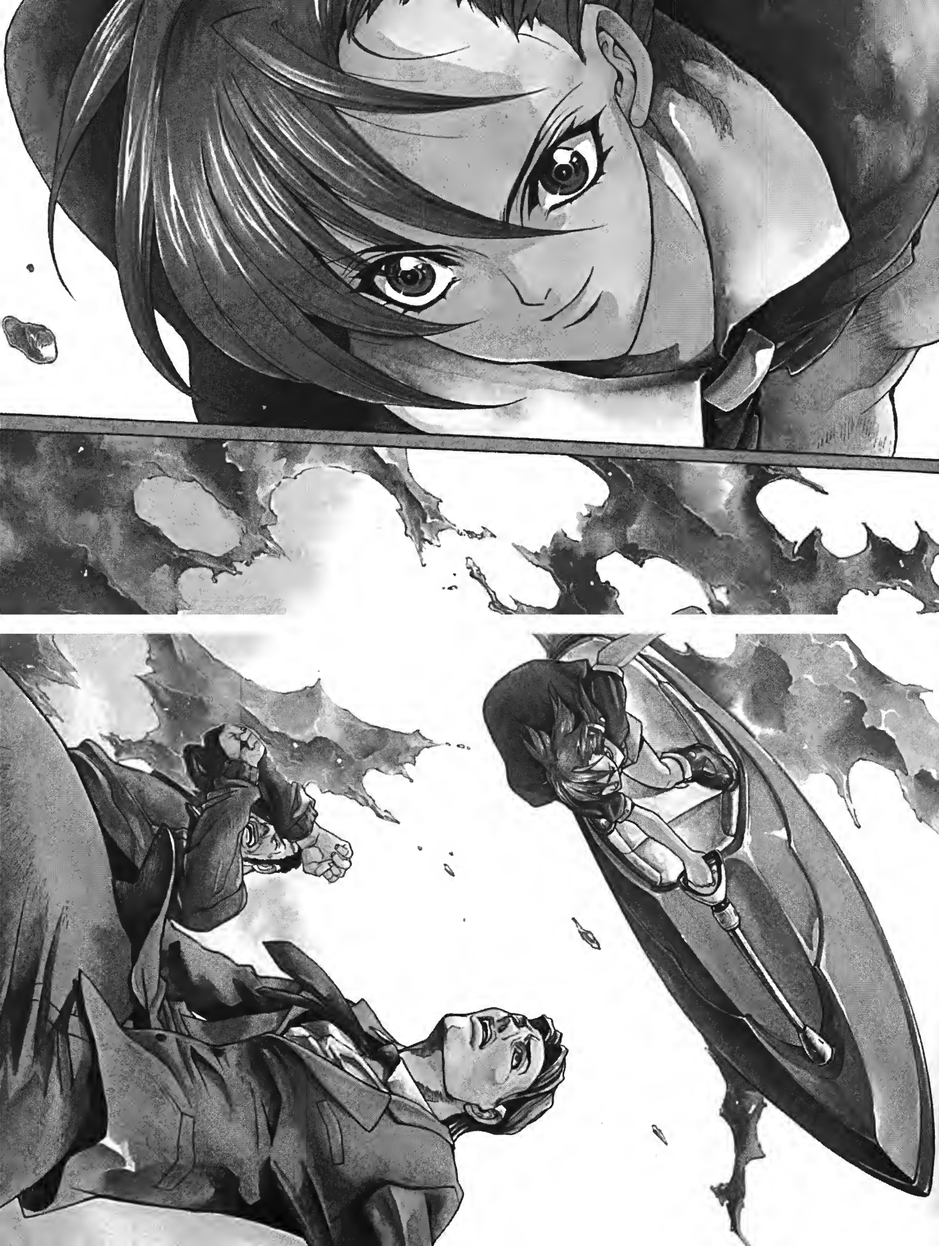
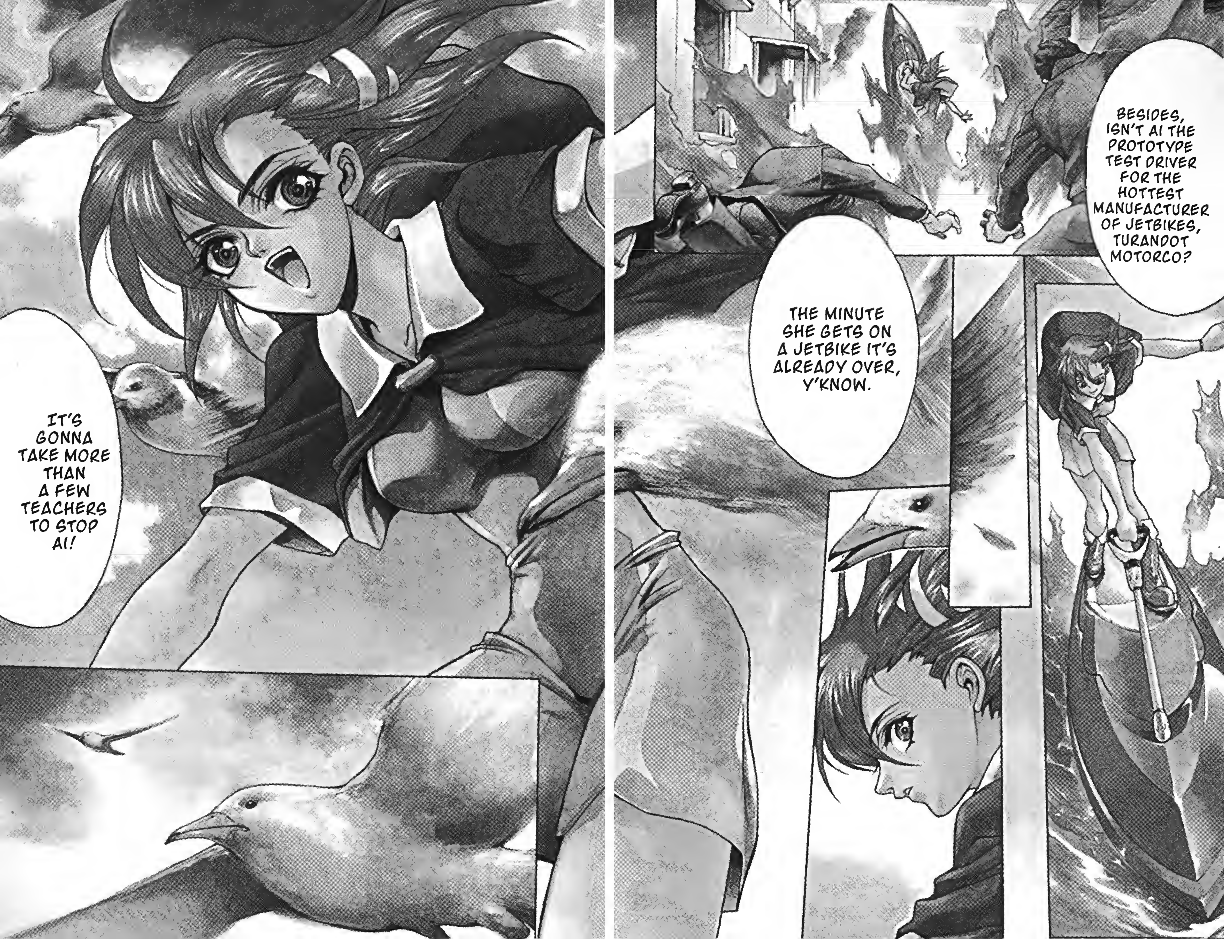
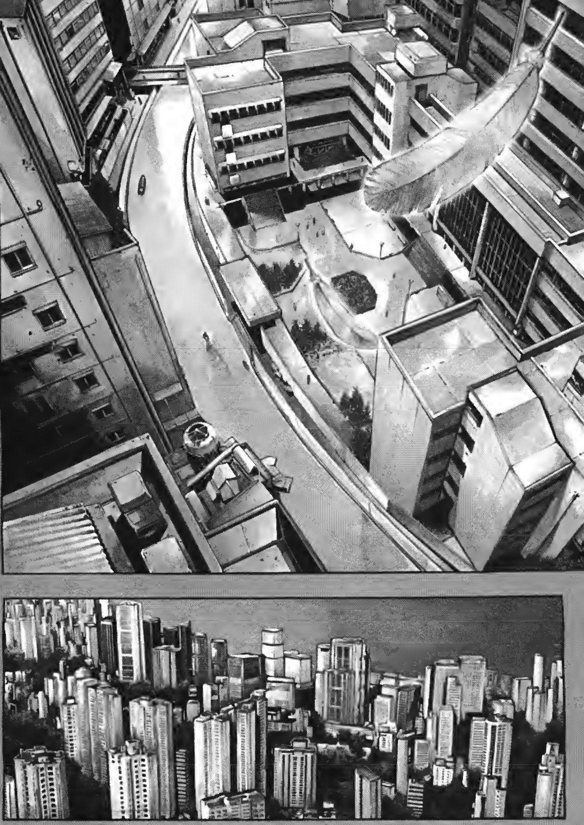
PHIRE IN THE BRILLIANT D

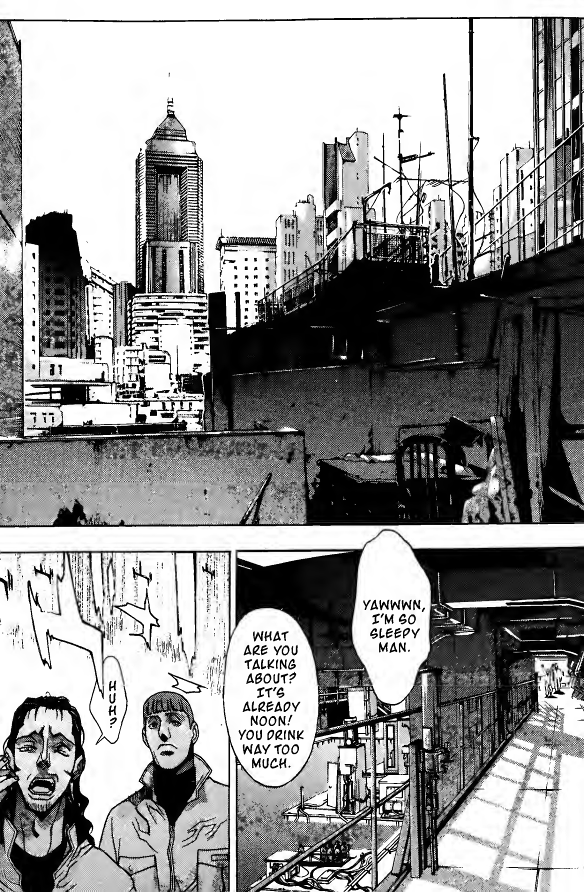

OH.
WHERE'S AI?
IT'S ALMOST TIME TO START AFTERNOON CLASSES.
AI'S OVER THERE
HEEEEY!! SHE'S PLANNING TO SKIP OUT AGAIN!
HEY, IT'S LIKE ALWAYS Y'KNOW, SHE SAID THAT SHE HAD SOME IMPORTANT BUSINESS AT HER FATHER'S RESEARCH LAB.
BUT DON'T YOU THINK TODAY SHE'S GOT THE ODDS AGAINST HER? LOOK, SHE'S SURROUNDED BY TEACHERS.

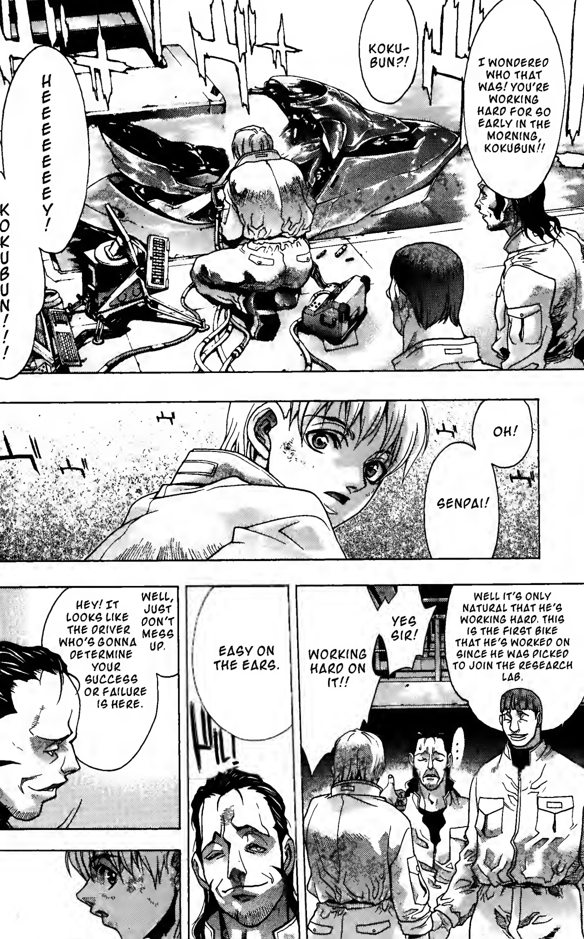


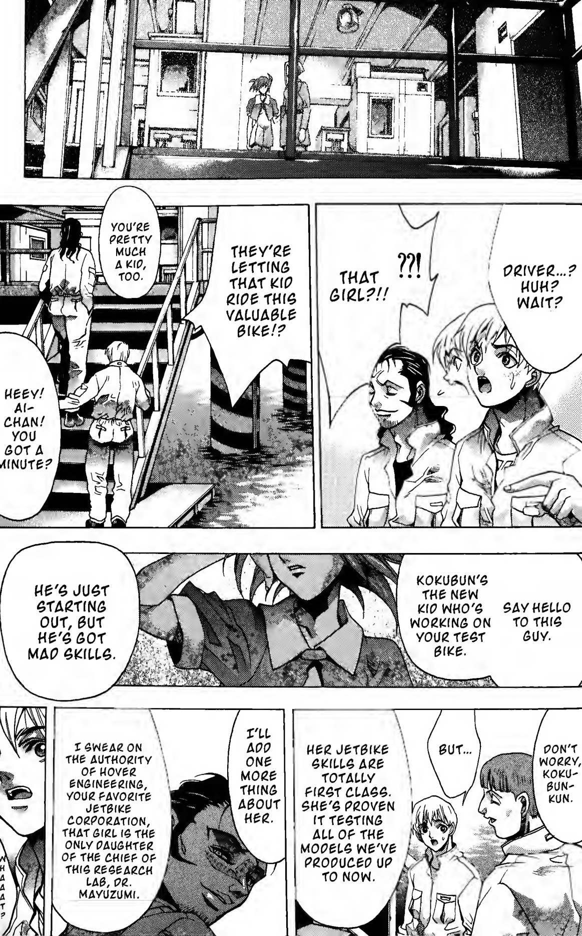

BESIDES, ISN'T AI THE PROTOTYPE TEST DRIVER FOR THE HOTTEST MANUFACTURER OF JETBIKES, TURANDOT MOTORCO?
THE MINUTE SHE GETS ON A JETBIKE IT'S ALREADY OVER, Y'KNOW.
IT'S GONNA TAKE MORE THAN A FEW TEACHERS TO STOP AI!

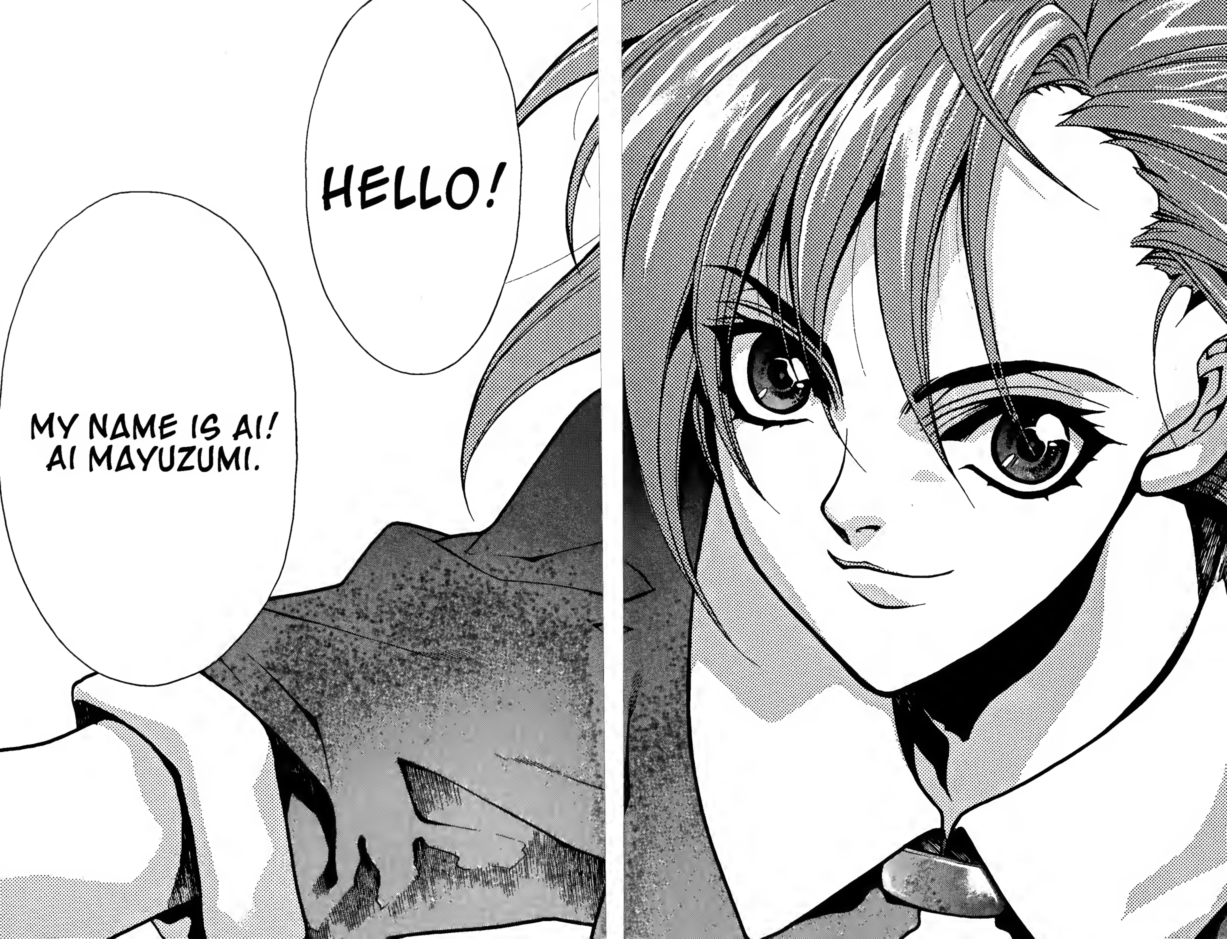


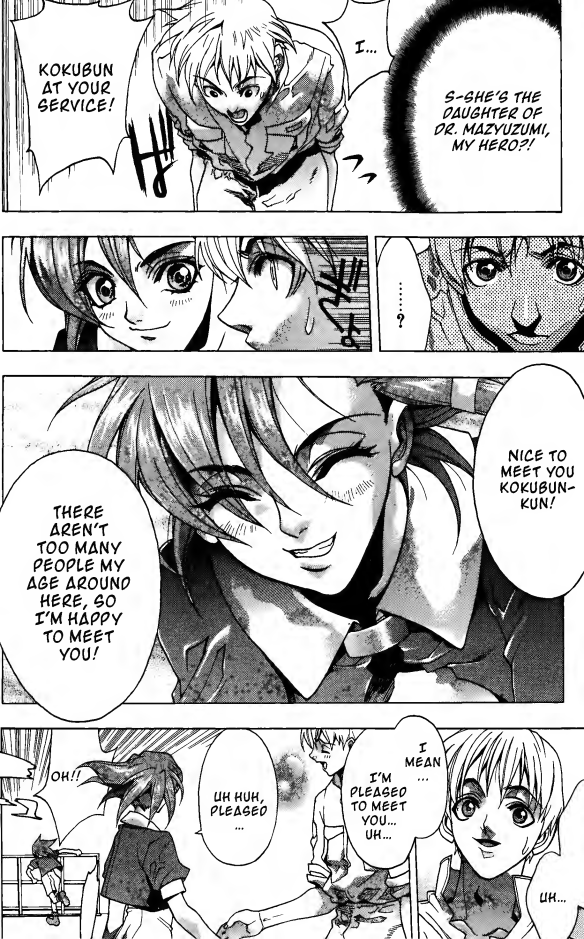
Chapter 1:
HELLO!

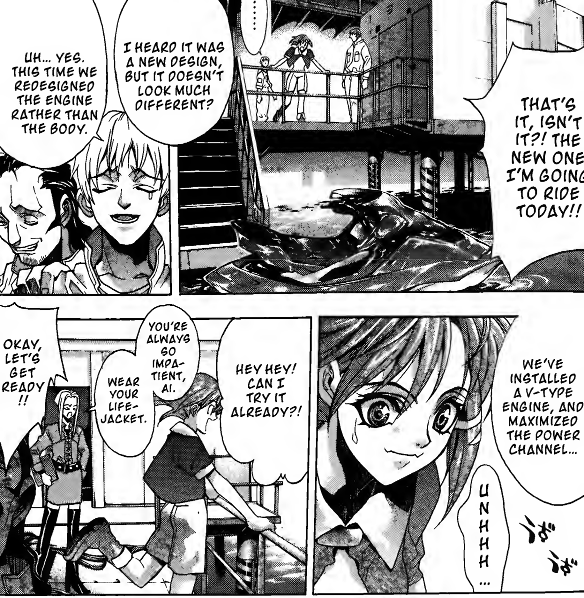

YAWWWN, I'M SO SLEEPY MAN.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S ALREADY NOON! YOU DRINK WAY TOO MUCH.
HUH?


I WONDERED WHO THAT WAS! YOU'RE WORKING HARD FOR SO EARLY IN THE MORNING, KOKUBUN!!
KOKU-BUN?!
HEEEEEEEEY! KOKUBUN!!!
OH!
SENPAI!
WELL IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT HE'S WORKING HARD. THIS IS THE FIRST BIKE THAT HE'S WORKED ON SINCE HE WAS PICKED TO JOIN THE RESEARCH LAB.
...
YES SIR!
WORKING HARD ON IT!!
EASY ON THE EARS.
WELL, JUST DON'T MESS UP.
HEY! IT LOOKS LIKE THE DRIVER WHO'S GONNA DETERMINE YOUR SUCCESS OR FAILURE IS HERE.

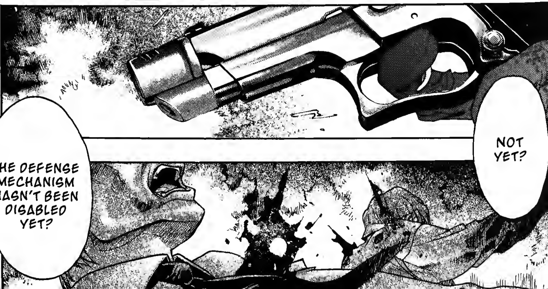

DRIVER...? HUH? WAIT?
??!
THAT GIRL?!!
THEY'RE LETTING THAT KID RIDE THIS VALUABLE BIKE!?
YOU'RE PRETTY MUCH A KID, TOO.
HEEY! AI-CHAN! YOU GOT A MINUTE?
SAY HELLO TO THIS GUY.
KOKUBUN'S THE NEW KID WHO'S WORKING ON YOUR TEST BIKE.
HE'S JUST STARTING OUT, BUT HE'S GOT MAD SKILLS.
DON'T WORRY, KOKUBUN-KUN.
BUT...
HER JETBIKE SKILLS ARE TOTALLY FIRST CLASS. SHE'S PROVEN IT TESTING ALL OF THE MODELS WE'VE PRODUCED UP TO NOW.
I'LL ADD ONE MORE THING ABOUT HER.
I SWEAR ON THE AUTHORITY OF HOVER ENGINEERING, YOUR FAVORITE JETBIKE CORPORATION, THAT GIRL IS THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF THE CHIEF OF THIS RESEARCH LAB, DR. MAYUZUMI.
WHAAAAT?

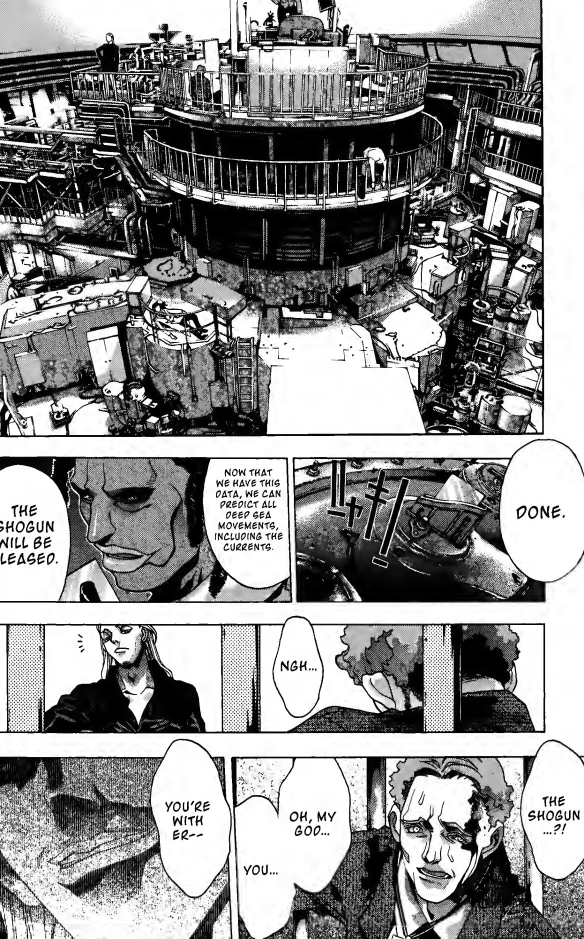

HELLO!
MY NAME IS AI! AI MAYUZUMI.

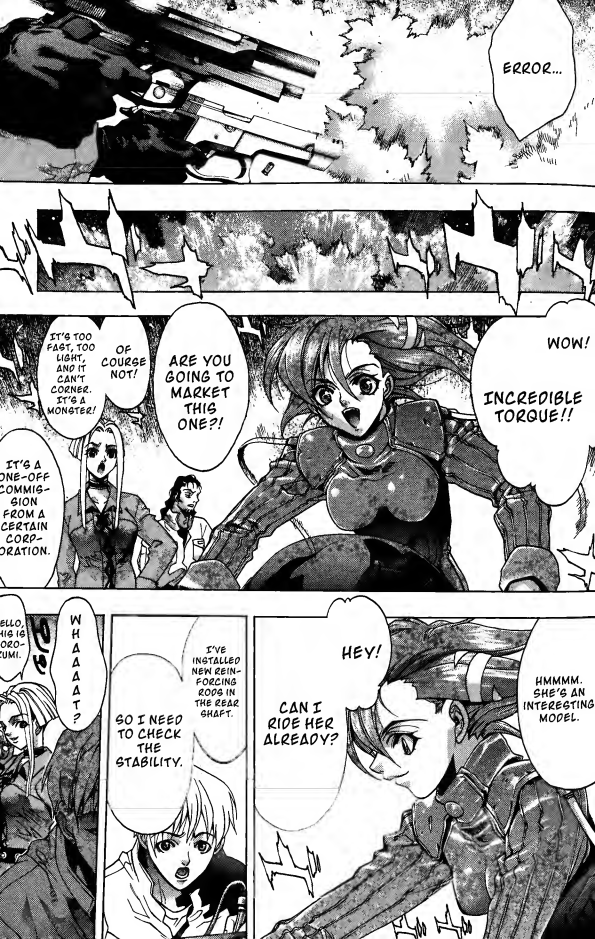

S-SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF DR. MAZYUZUMI, MY HERO?!
I...
KOKUBUN AT YOUR SERVICE!
......?
NICE TO MEET YOU KOKUBUN-KUN!
THERE AREN'T TOO MANY PEOPLE MY AGE AROUND HERE, SO I'M HAPPY TO MEET YOU!
UH...
I MEAN ...
I'M PLEASED TO MEET YOU... UH...
UH HUH, PLEASED ...
OH!!

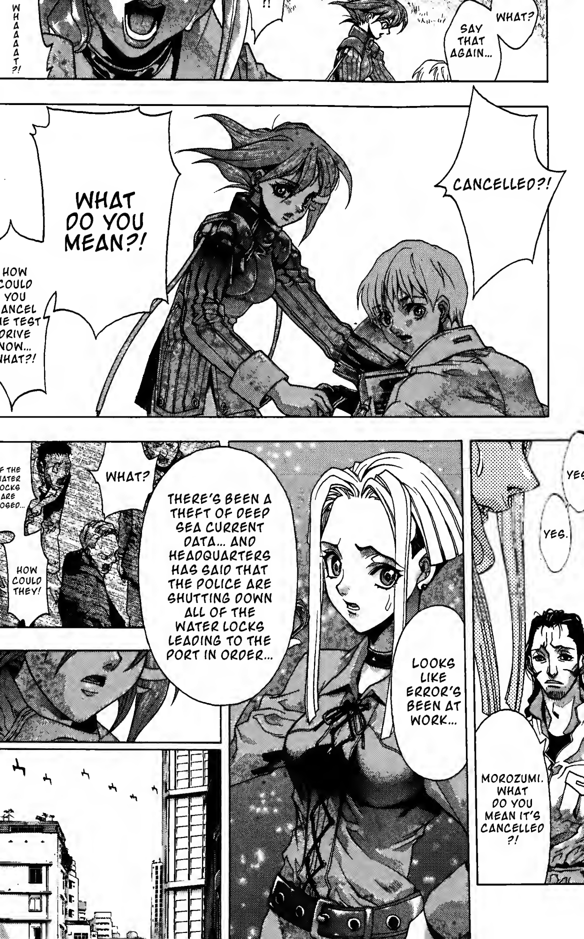

......
THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT?! THE NEW ONE I'M GOING TO RIDE TODAY!!
I HEARD IT WAS A NEW DESIGN, BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK MUCH DIFFERENT?
UH... YES. THIS TIME WE REDESIGNED THE ENGINE RATHER THAN THE BODY.
WE'VE INSTALLED A V-TYPE ENGINE, AND MAXIMIZED THE POWER CHANNEL...
UNHHH...
HEY HEY! CAN I TRY IT ALREADY?!
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO IMPATIENT, AI.
WEAR YOUR LIFE-JACKET.
OKAY, LET'S GET READY!!

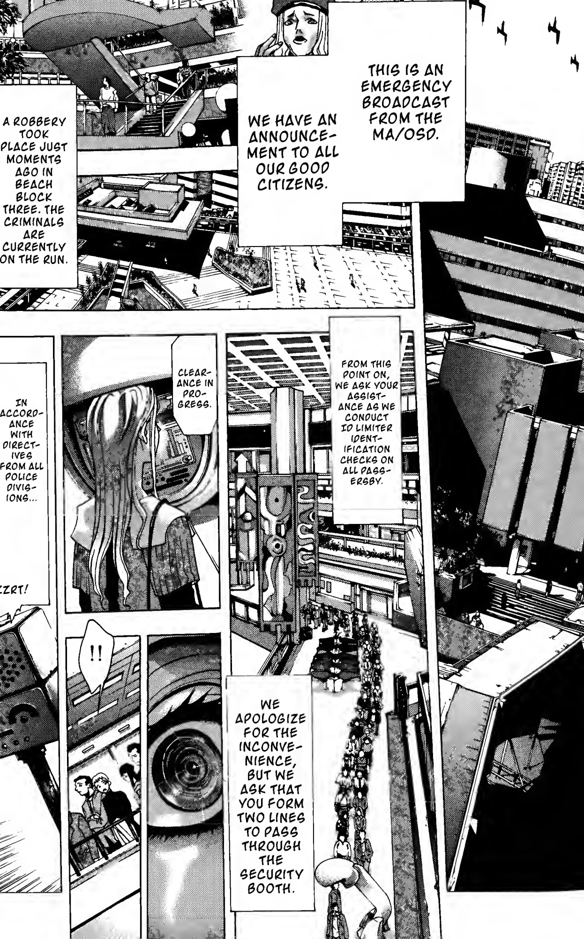
Marine Agency: Ocean Security Division

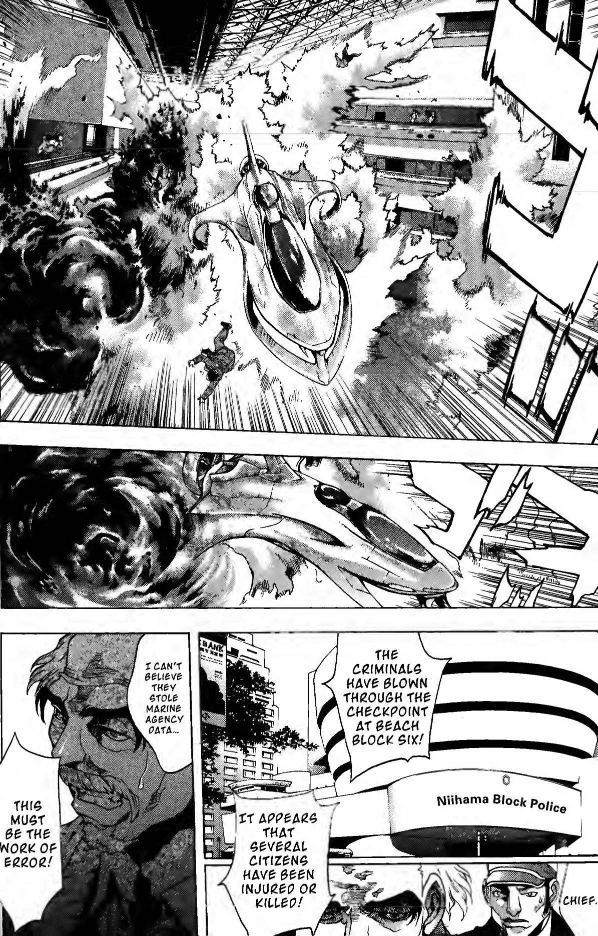

NOT YET?
THE DEFENSE MECHANISM HASN'T BEEN DISABLED YET?

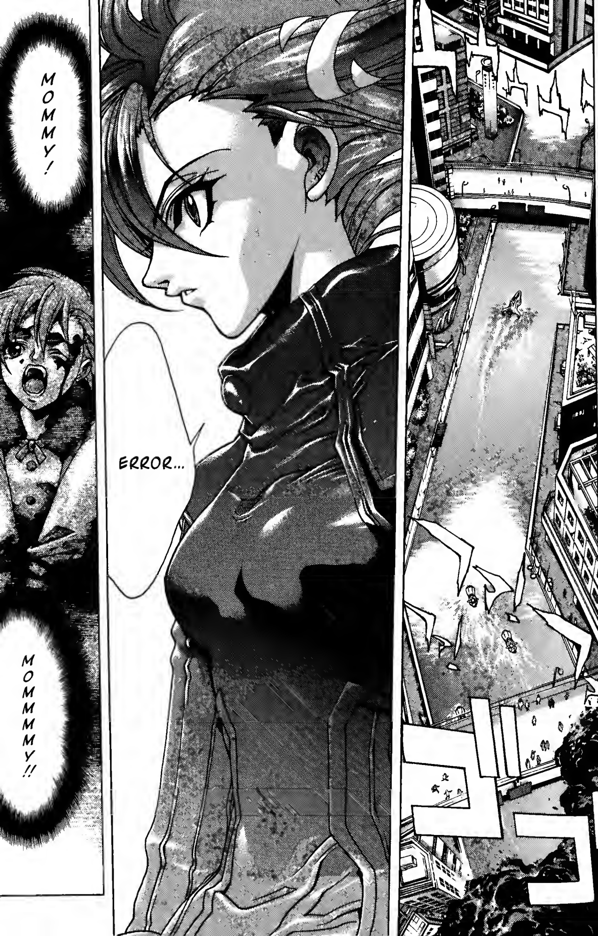

DONE.
NOW THAT WE HAVE THIS DATA, WE CAN PREDICT ALL DEEP SEA MOVEMENTS, INCLUDING THE CURRENTS.
THE SHOGUN WILL BE LEASED.
NGH...
THE SHOGUN ...?!
OH, MY GOD...
YOU...
YOU'RE WITH ER--

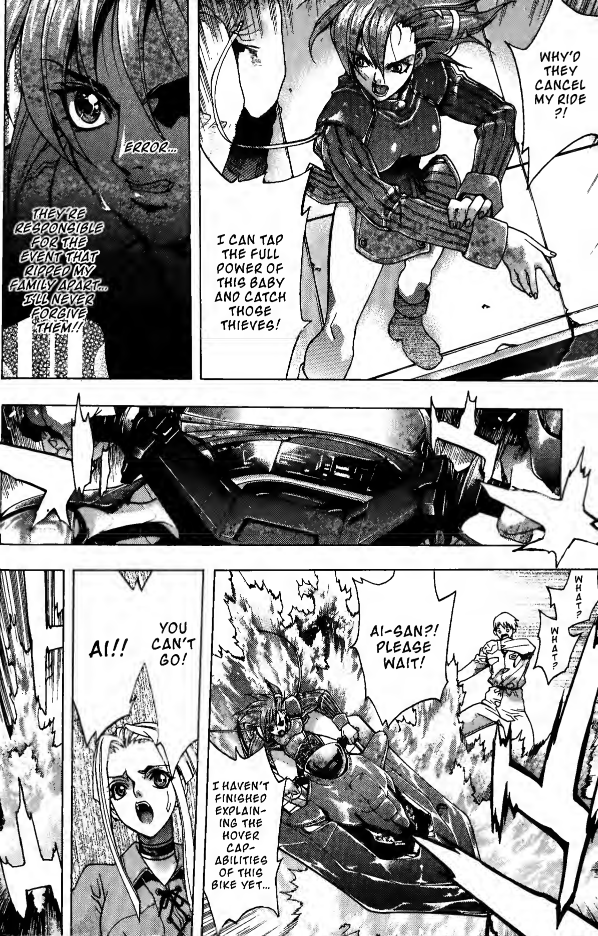

ERROR...
WOW!
INCREDIBLE TORQUE!!
ARE YOU GOING TO MARKET THIS ONE?!
OF COURSE NOT!
IT'S TOO FAST, TOO LIGHT, AND IT CAN'T CORNER. IT'S A MONSTER!
IT'S A ONE-OFF COMMISSION FROM A CERTAIN CORPORATION.
HMMMM. SHE'S AN INTERESTING MODEL.
HEY!
CAN I RIDE HER ALREADY?
I'VE INSTALLED NEW REINFORCING RODS IN THE REAR SHAFT.
SO I NEED TO CHECK THE STABILITY.
WHAAAAAT?
ELLO, HIS IS ORO-ZUMI.

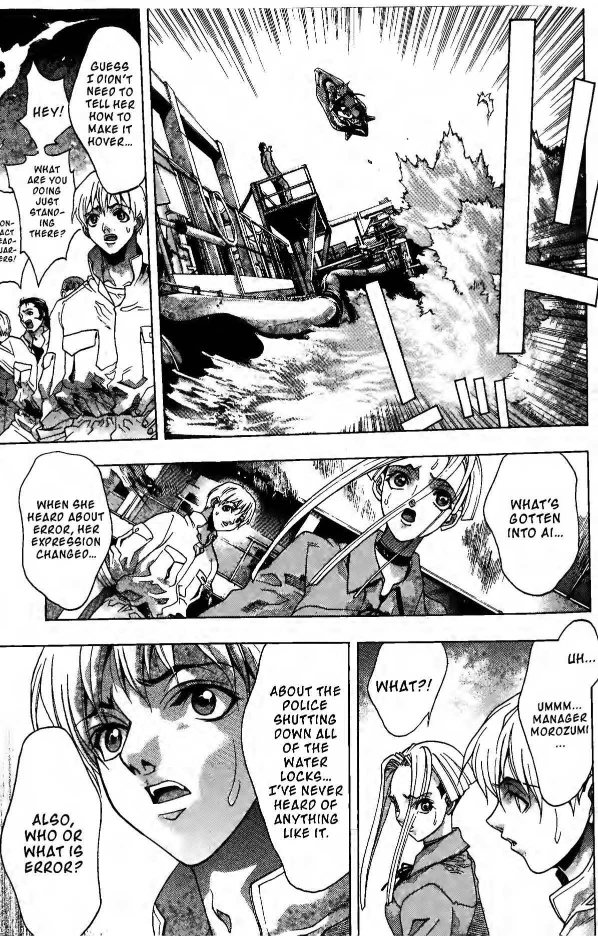

WHAT?
SAY THAT AGAIN...
!!
WHAAAAAT?!
CANCELLED?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
HOW COULD YOU ANCEL HE TEST DRIVE NOW... HAT?!
YES
YES.
MOROZUMI. WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT'S CANCELLED?!
THERE'S BEEN A THEFT OF DEEP SEA CURRENT DATA... AND HEADQUARTERS HAS SAID THAT THE POLICE ARE SHUTTING DOWN ALL OF THE WATER LOCKS LEADING TO THE PORT IN ORDER...
LOOKS LIKE ERROR'S BEEN AT WORK...
WHAT?
F THE ATER OCKS ARE OSED...
HOW COULD THEY!

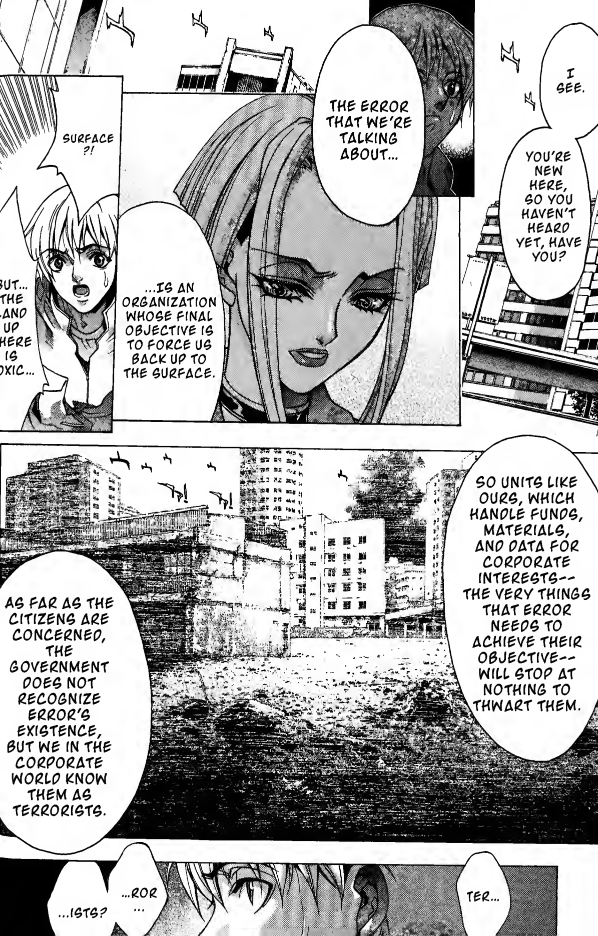

THIS IS AN EMERGENCY BROADCAST FROM THE MA/OSD.
WE HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL OUR GOOD CITIZENS.
A ROBBERY TOOK PLACE JUST MOMENTS AGO IN BEACH BLOCK THREE. THE CRIMINALS ARE CURRENTLY ON THE RUN.
FROM THIS POINT ON, WE ASK YOUR ASSISTANCE AS WE CONDUCT ID LIMITER IDENTIFICATION CHECKS ON ALL PASSERSBY.
CLEARANCE IN PROGRESS.
IN ACCORDANCE WITH DIRECTIVES FROM ALL POLICE DIVISIONS...
ZRT!
WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE, BUT WE ASK THAT YOU FORM TWO LINES TO PASS THROUGH THE SECURITY BOOTH.
!!

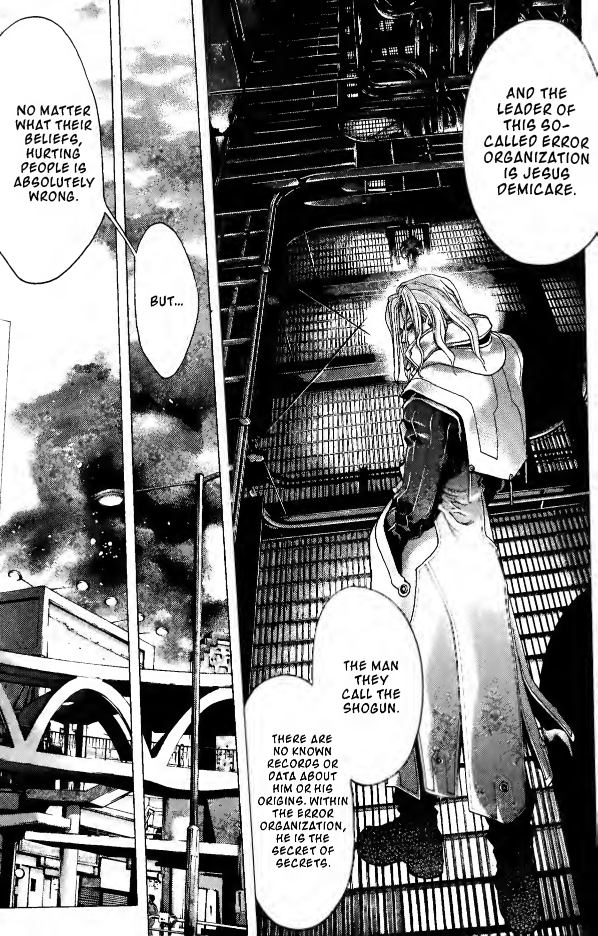

THE CRIMINALS HAVE BLOWN THROUGH THE CHECKPOINT AT BEACH BLOCK SIX!
Niihama Block Police
IT APPEARS THAT SEVERAL CITIZENS HAVE BEEN INJURED OR KILLED!
CHIEF.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY STOLE MARINE AGENCY DATA...
THIS MUST BE THE WORK OF ERROR!

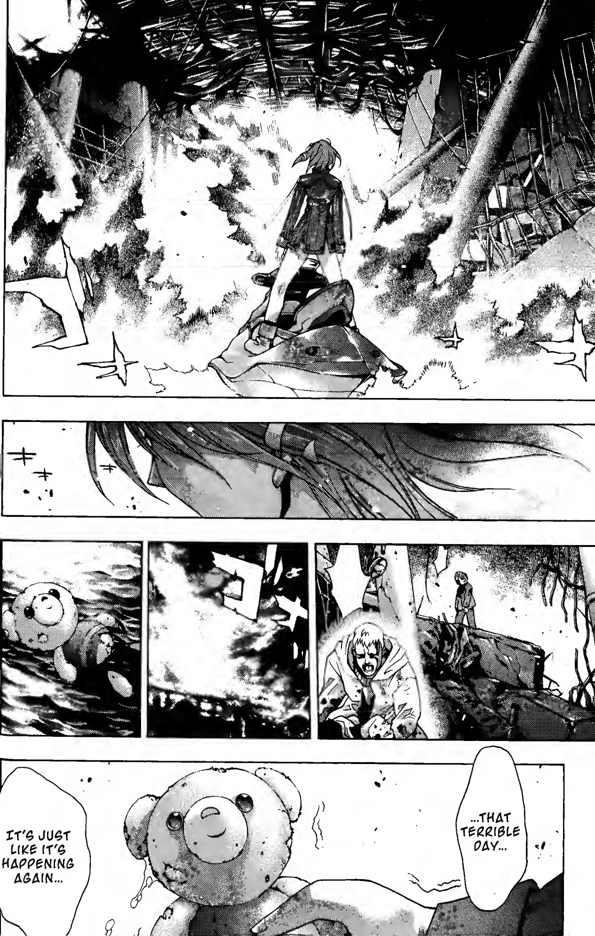

ERROR...
MOMMY!
MOMMMMY!!

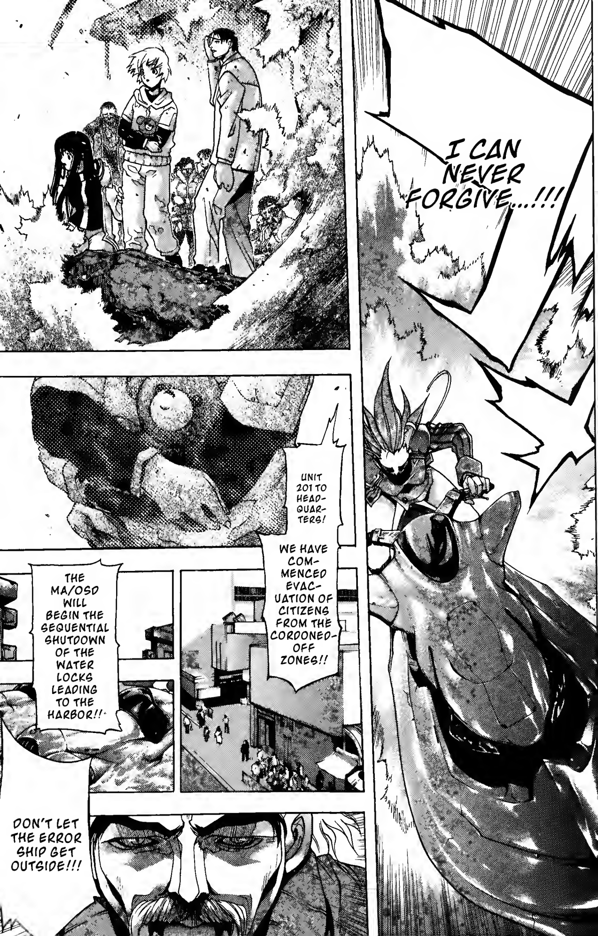

WHY'D THEY CANCEL MY RIDE ?!
I CAN TAP THE FULL POWER OF THIS BABY AND CATCH THOSE THIEVES!
ERROR...
THEY'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EVENT THAT RIPPED MY FAMILY APART... I'LL NEVER FORGIVE THEM!!
WHAT?
WHAT?
AI-SAN?! PLEASE WAIT!
I HAVEN'T FINISHED EXPLAINING THE HOVER CAPABILITIES OF THIS BIKE YET...
YOU CAN'T GO!
AI!!

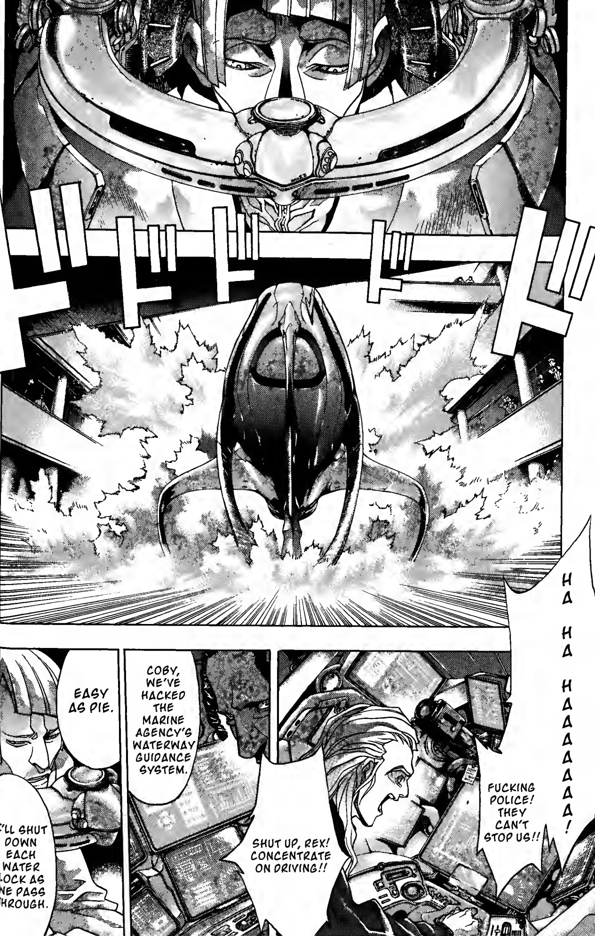

GUESS I DIDN'T NEED TO TELL HER HOW TO MAKE IT HOVER...
HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING JUST STANDING THERE?
ONACT EADUARERS!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO AI...
WHEN SHE HEARD ABOUT ERROR, HER EXPRESSION CHANGED...
UH...
UMMM... MANAGER MOROZUMI ...
WHAT?!
ABOUT THE POLICE SHUTTING DOWN ALL OF THE WATER LOCKS... I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANYTHING LIKE IT.
ALSO, WHO OR WHAT IS ERROR?

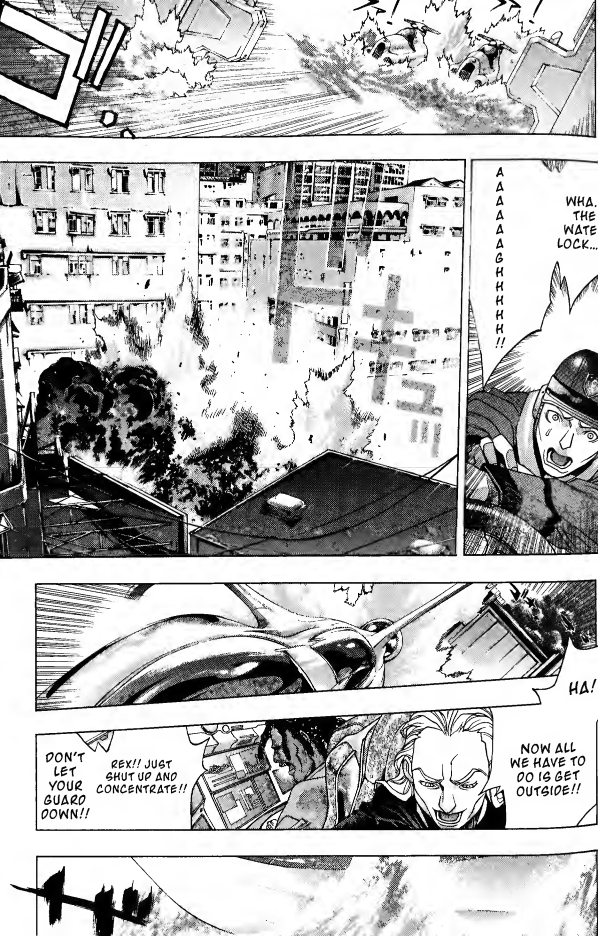

I SEE.
YOU'RE NEW HERE, SO YOU HAVEN'T HEARD YET, HAVE YOU?
THE ERROR THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT...
...IS AN ORGANIZATION WHOSE FINAL OBJECTIVE IS TO FORCE US BACK UP TO THE SURFACE.
SURFACE ?!
UT... THE AND UP HERE IS OXIC...
AS FAR AS THE CITIZENS ARE CONCERNED, THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT RECOGNIZE ERROR'S EXISTENCE, BUT WE IN THE CORPORATE WORLD KNOW THEM AS TERRORISTS.
SO UNITS LIKE OURS, WHICH HANDLE FUNDS, MATERIALS, AND DATA FOR CORPORATE INTERESTS-- THE VERY THINGS THAT ERROR NEEDS TO ACHIEVE THEIR OBJECTIVE-- WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO THWART THEM.
TER...
...ROR ...
...ISTS?

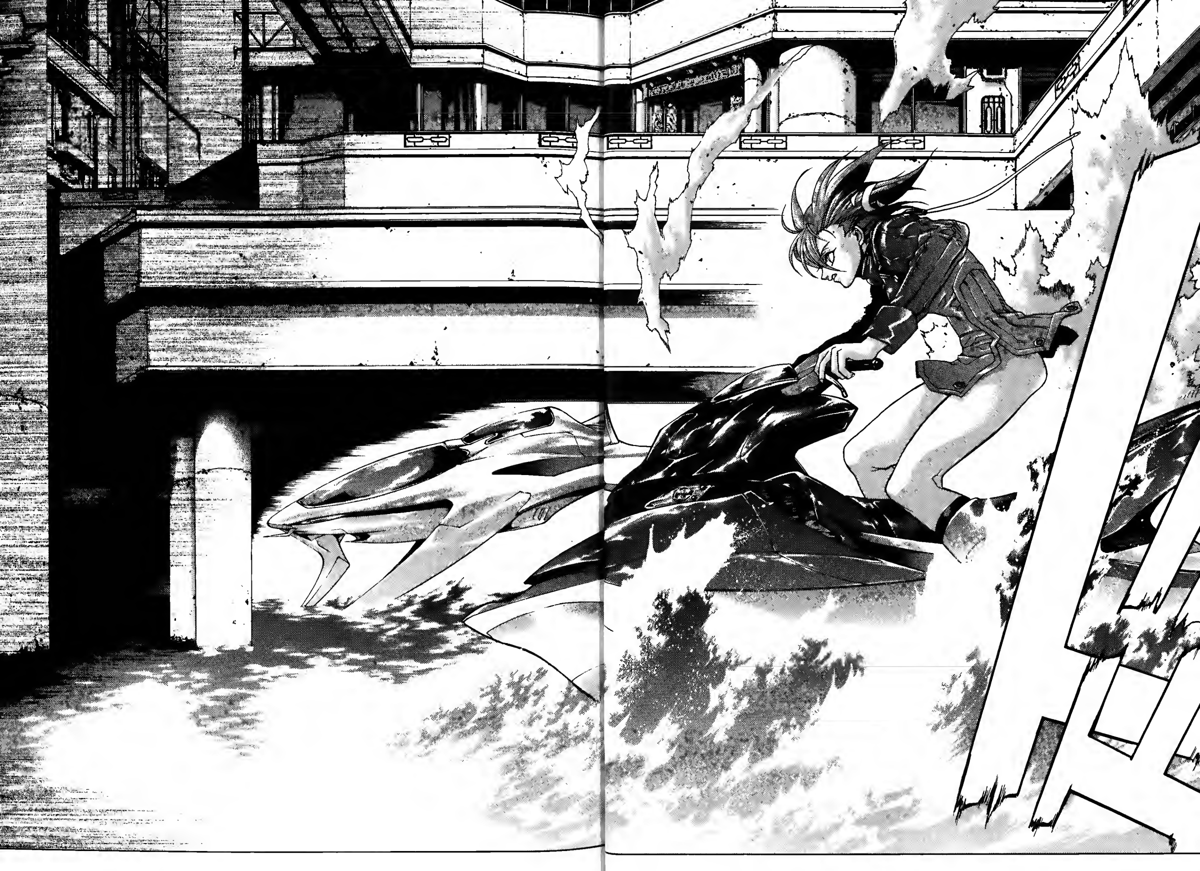

AND THE LEADER OF THIS SO-CALLED ERROR ORGANIZATION IS JESUS DEMICARE.
THE MAN THEY CALL THE SHOGUN.
THERE ARE NO KNOWN RECORDS OR DATA ABOUT HIM OR HIS ORIGINS. WITHIN THE ERROR ORGANIZATION, HE IS THE SECRET OF SECRETS.
NO MATTER WHAT THEIR BELIEFS, HURTING PEOPLE IS ABSOLUTELY WRONG.
BUT...

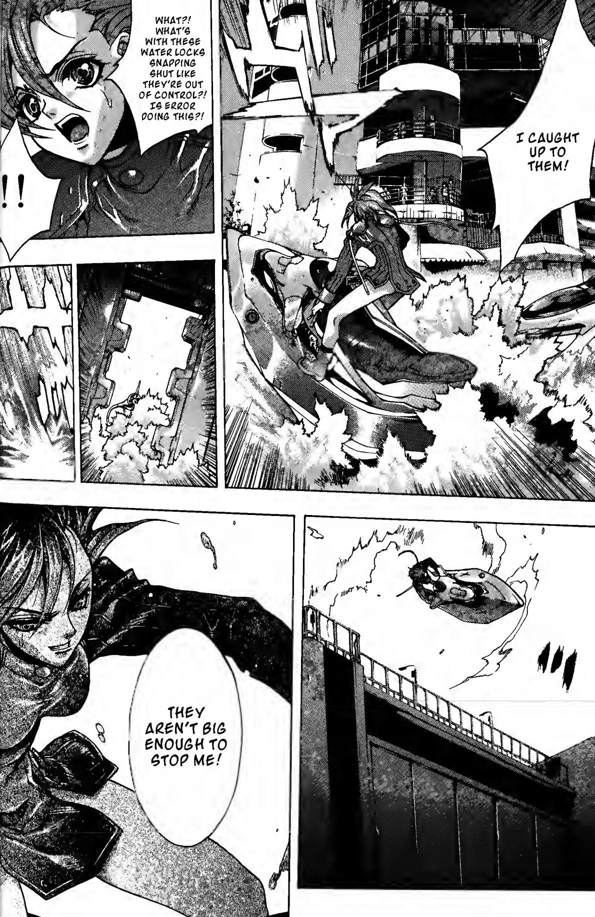

...THAT TERRIBLE DAY...
IT'S JUST LIKE IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN...

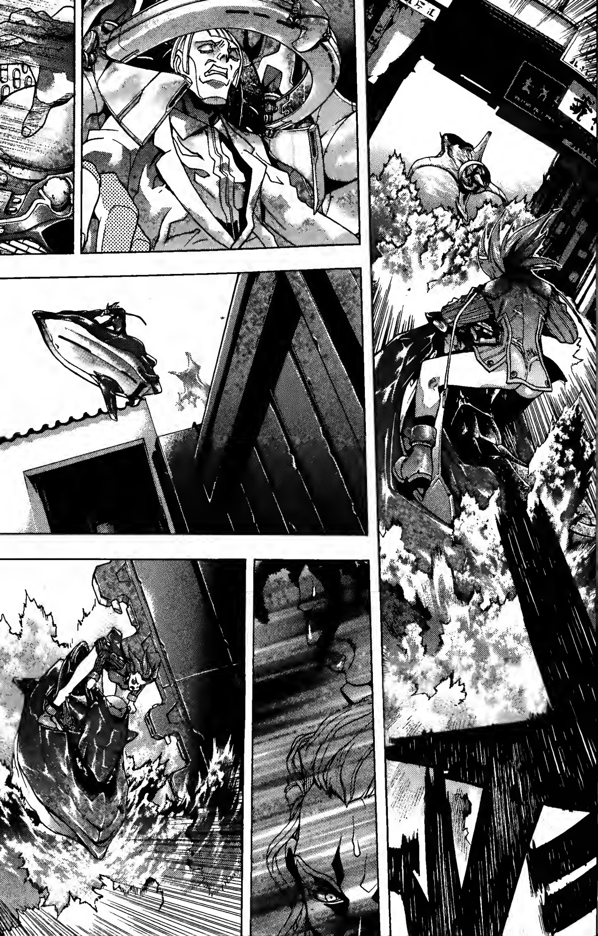

I CAN NEVER FORGIVE...!!!
UNIT 201 TO HEADQUARTERS!
WE HAVE COMMENCED EVACUATION OF CITIZENS FROM THE CORDONED-OFF ZONES!!
THE MA/OSD WILL BEGIN THE SEQUENTIAL SHUTDOWN OF THE WATER LOCKS LEADING TO THE HARBOR!!
DON'T LET THE ERROR SHIP GET OUTSIDE!!!

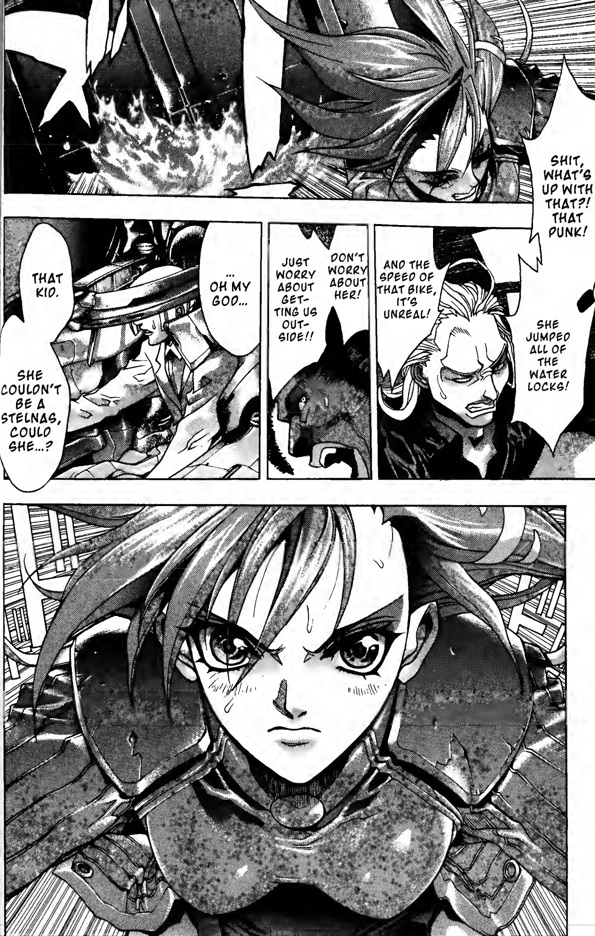

ドドドドド
HA HA HAAAAAAAAA!
FUCKING POLICE! THEY CAN'T STOP US!!
SHUT UP, REX! CONCENTRATE ON DRIVING!!
COBY, WE'VE HACKED THE MARINE AGENCY'S WATERWAY GUIDANCE SYSTEM.
EASY AS PIE.
'LL SHUT DOWN EACH WATER LOCK AS E PASS THROUGH.

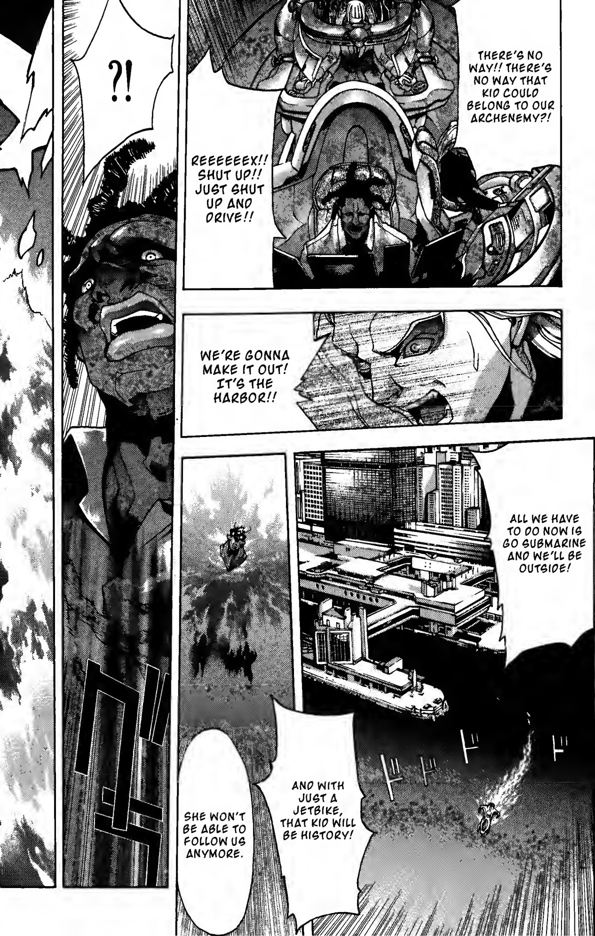

WHA.. THE WATE LOCK...
AAAAAAAAAGHHHHHH!!
HA!
NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GET OUTSIDE!!
REX!! JUST SHUT UP AND CONCENTRATE!!
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN!!

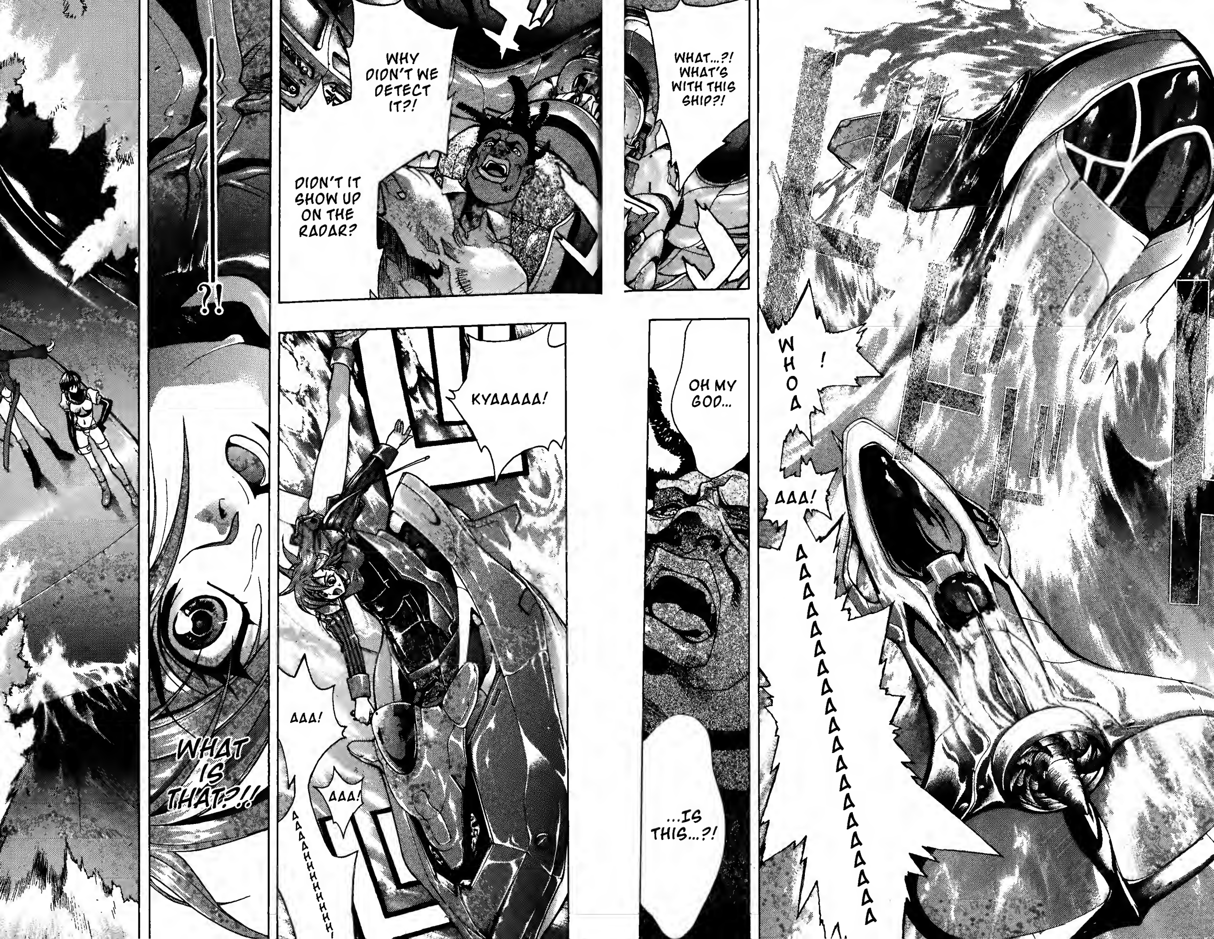


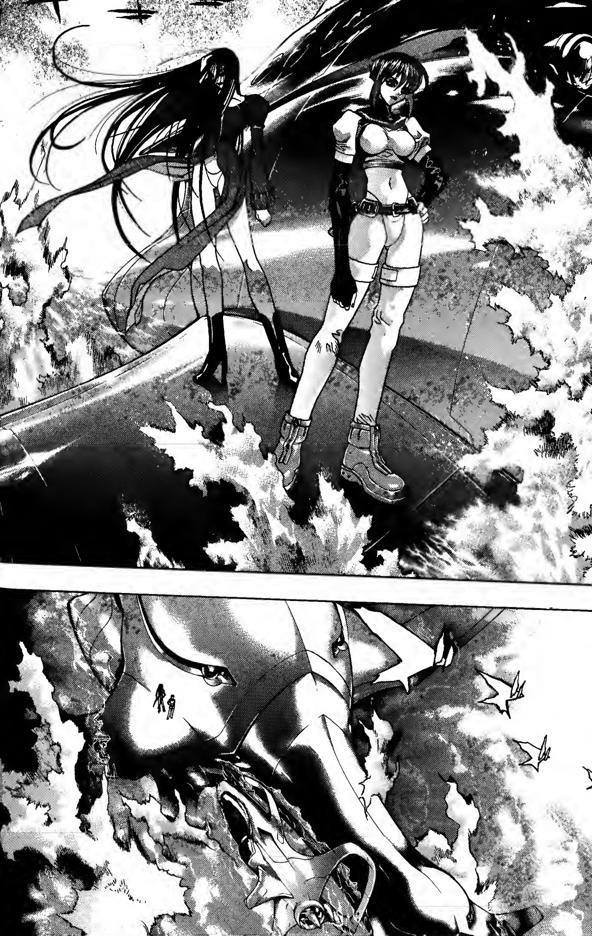

I CAUGHT UP TO THEM!
WHAT?! WHAT'S WITH THESE WATER LOCKS SNAPPING SHUT LIKE THEY'RE OUT OF CONTROL?! IS ERROR DOING THIS?!
!!
THEY AREN'T BIG ENOUGH TO STOP ME!

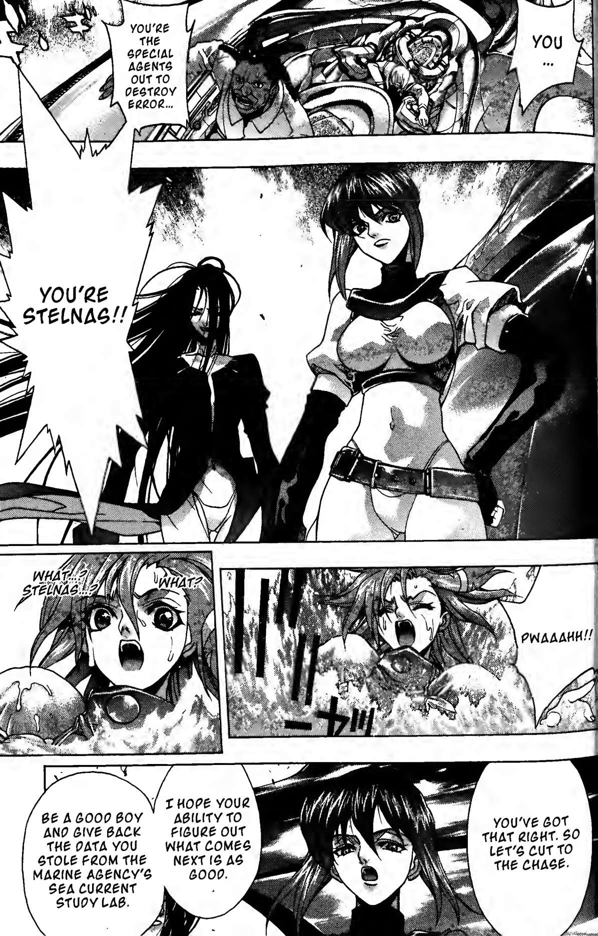


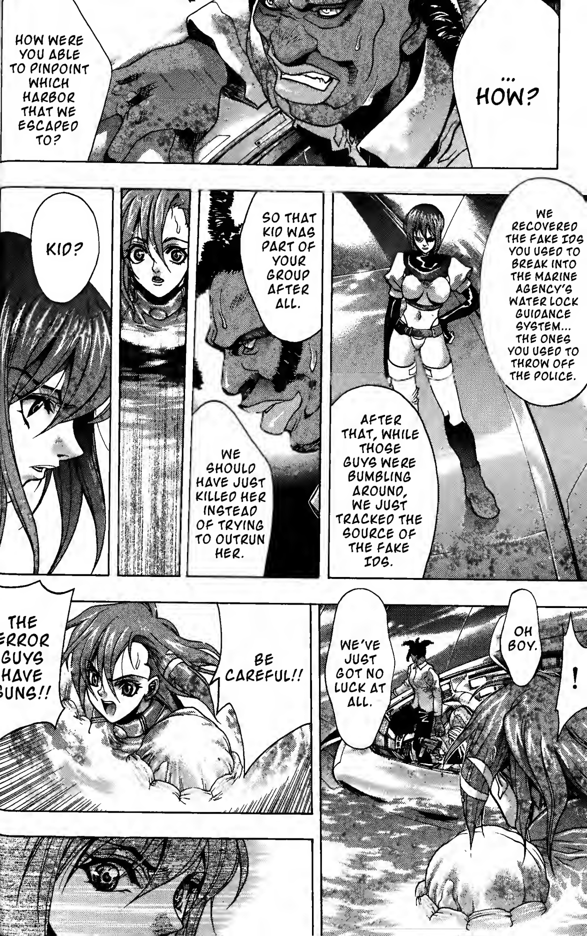

SHIT, WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?! THAT PUNK!
SHE JUMPED ALL OF THE WATER LOCKS!
AND THE SPEED OF THAT BIKE, IT'S UNREAL!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HER!
JUST WORRY ABOUT GETTING US OUTSIDE!!
... OH MY GOD...
THAT KID.
SHE COULDN'T BE A STELNAS, COULD SHE...?

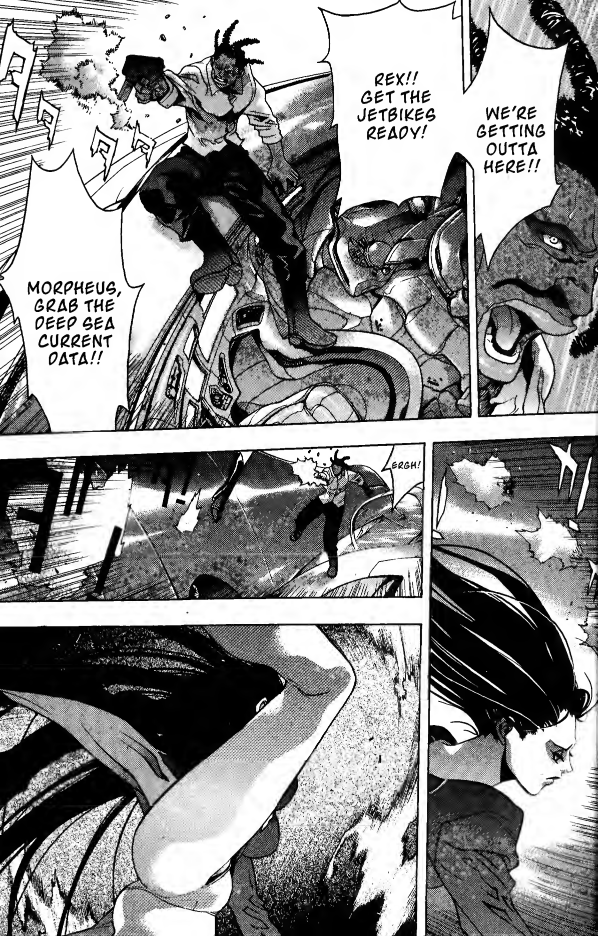

THERE'S NO WAY!! THERE'S NO WAY THAT KID COULD BELONG TO OUR ARCHENEMY?!
REEEEEEX!! SHUT UP!! JUST SHUT UP AND DRIVE!!
WE'RE GONNA MAKE IT OUT! IT'S THE HARBOR!!
ALL WE HAVE TO DO NOW IS GO SUBMARINE AND WE'LL BE OUTSIDE!
ドドドド
AND WITH JUST A JETBIKE, THAT KID WILL BE HISTORY!
SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO FOLLOW US ANYMORE.
?!

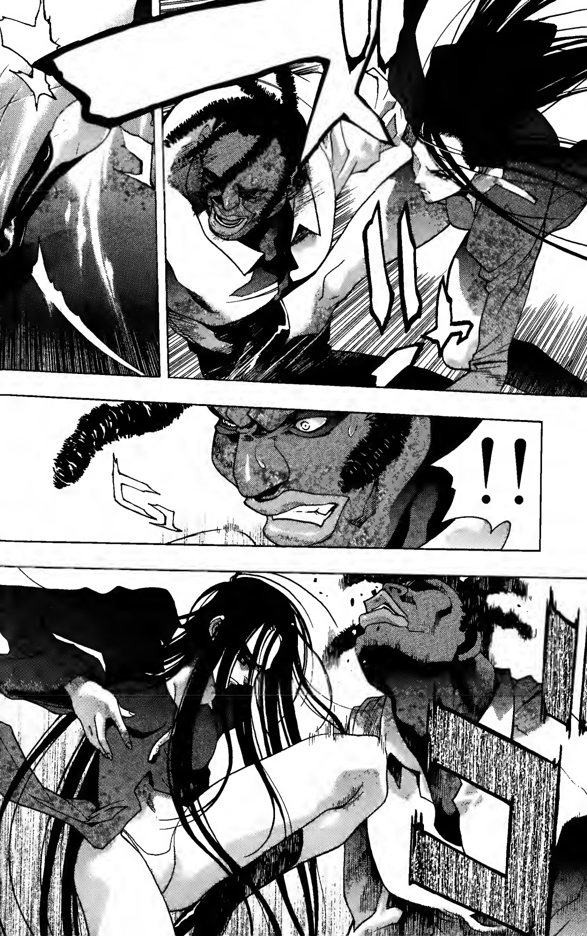

WHOA!
AAA!
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
WHAT...?! WHAT'S WITH THIS SHIP?!
WHY DIDN'T WE DETECT IT?!
DIDN'T IT SHOW UP ON THE RADAR?
OH MY GOD...
...IS THIS...?!
KYAAAAA!
AAA!
AAA!
AAAAHHHHHHH!
?!
WHAT IS THAT?!!



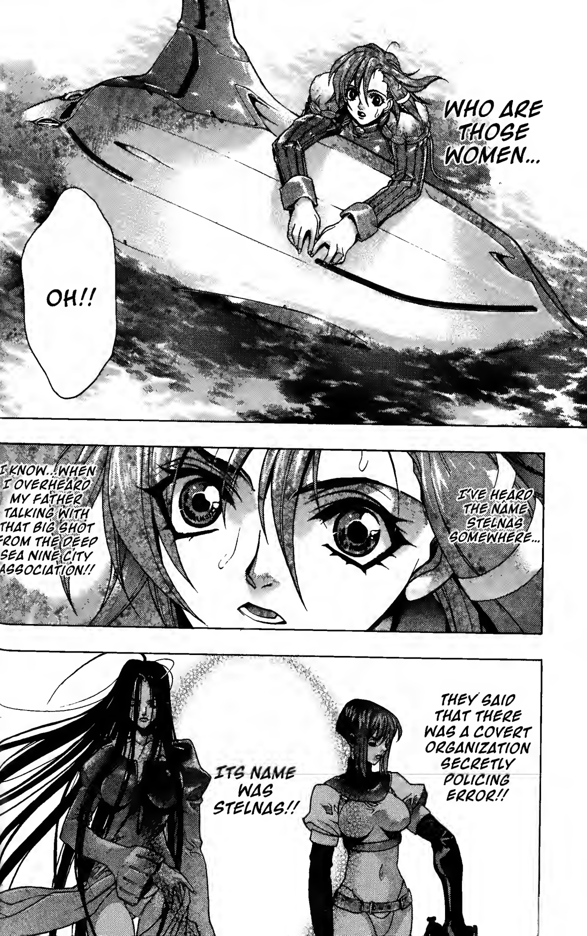

YOU ...
YOU'RE THE SPECIAL AGENTS OUT TO DESTROY ERROR...
YOU'RE STELNAS!!
PWAAAHH!!
ザッ
WHAT?
WHAT...? STELNAS...?
YOU'VE GOT THAT RIGHT. SO LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE.
I HOPE YOUR ABILITY TO FIGURE OUT WHAT COMES NEXT IS AS GOOD.
BE A GOOD BOY AND GIVE BACK THE DATA YOU STOLE FROM THE MARINE AGENCY'S SEA CURRENT STUDY LAB.

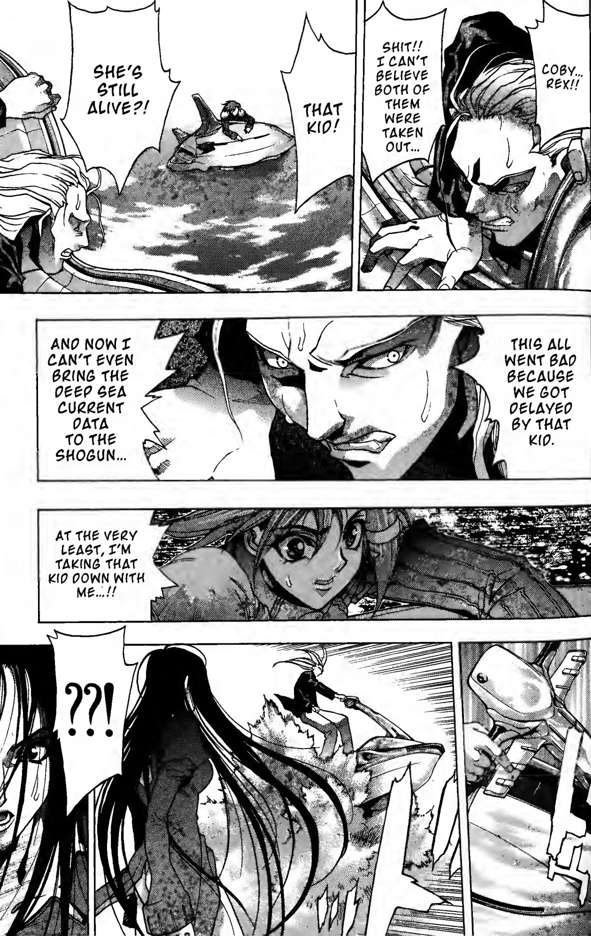

... HOW?
HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO PINPOINT WHICH HARBOR THAT WE ESCAPED TO?
WE RECOVERED THE FAKE IDS YOU USED TO BREAK INTO THE MARINE AGENCY'S WATER LOCK GUIDANCE SYSTEM... THE ONES YOU USED TO THROW OFF THE POLICE.
AFTER THAT, WHILE THOSE GUYS WERE BUMBLING AROUND, WE JUST TRACKED THE SOURCE OF THE FAKE IDS.
SO THAT KID WAS PART OF YOUR GROUP AFTER ALL.
WE SHOULD HAVE JUST KILLED HER INSTEAD OF TRYING TO OUTRUN HER.
KID?
OH BOY.
!
WE'VE JUST GOT NO LUCK AT ALL.
BE CAREFUL!!
THE ERROR GUYS HAVE GUNS!!

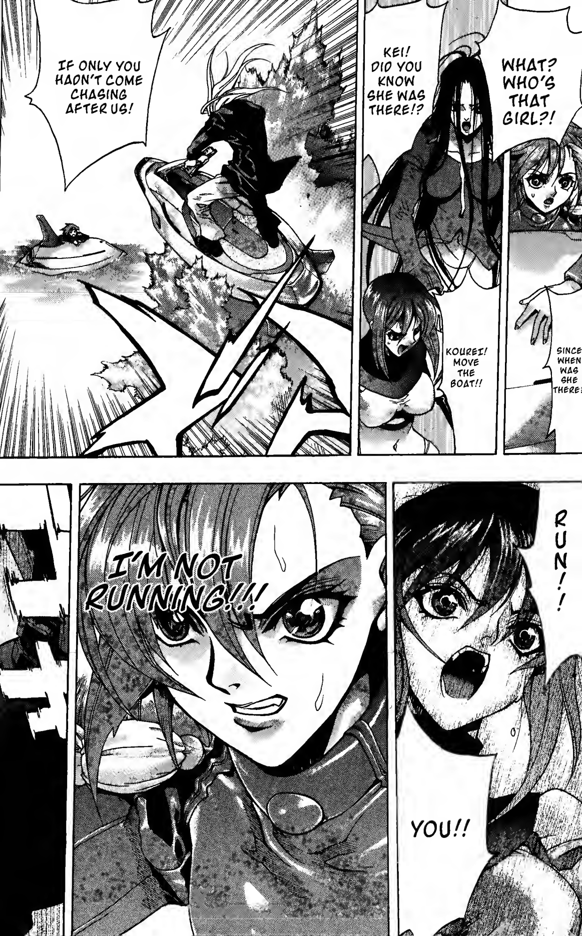

WE'RE GETTING OUTTA HERE!!
REX!! GET THE JETBIKES READY!
MORPHEUS, GRAB THE DEEP SEA CURRENT DATA!!
ERGH!

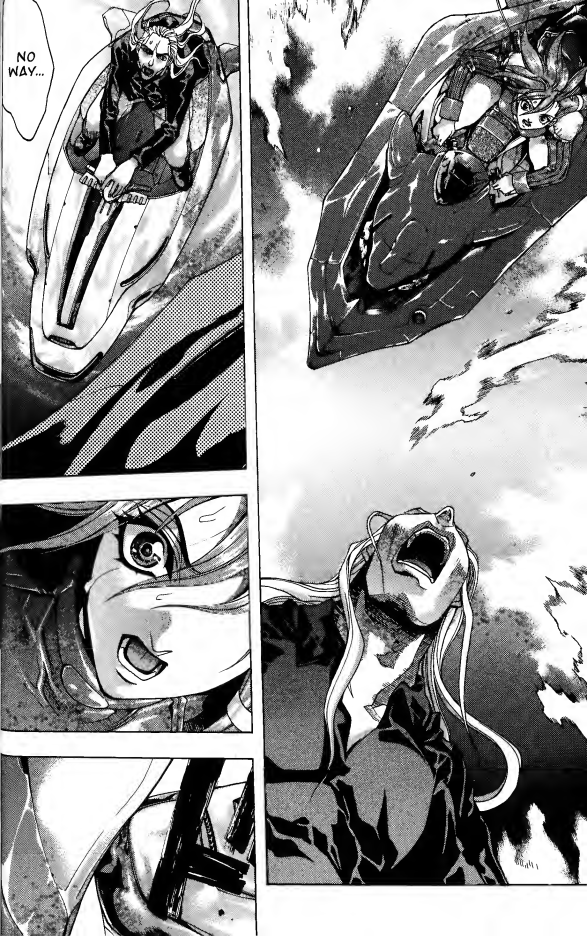


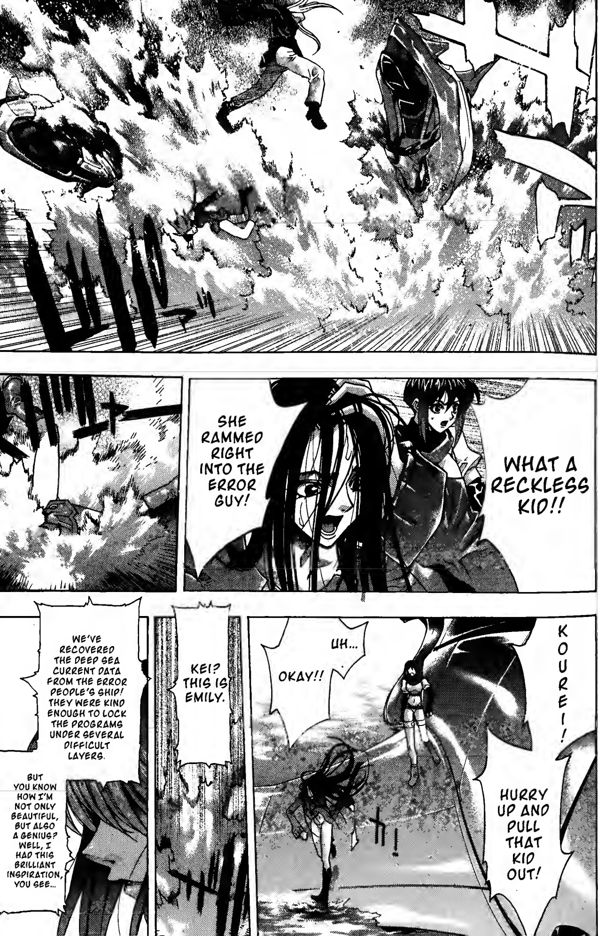
AGHHH!

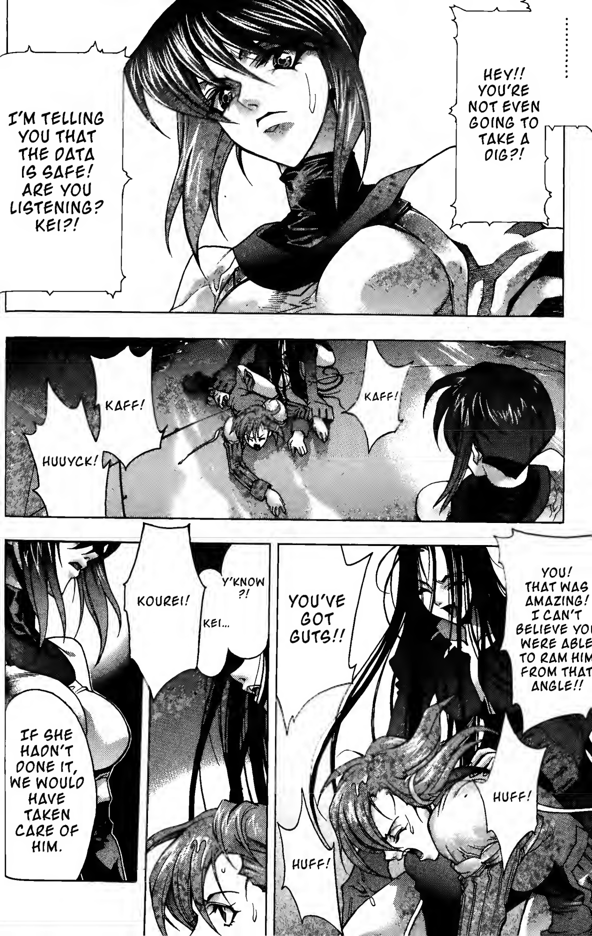

WHO ARE THOSE WOMEN...
OH!!
I'VE HEARD THE NAME STELNAS SOMEWHERE...
I KNOW...WHEN I OVERHEARD MY FATHER TALKING WITH THAT BIG SHOT FROM THE DEEP SEA NINE CITY ASSOCIATION!!
THEY SAID THAT THERE WAS A COVERT ORGANIZATION SECRETLY POLICING ERROR!!
ITS NAME WAS STELNAS!!

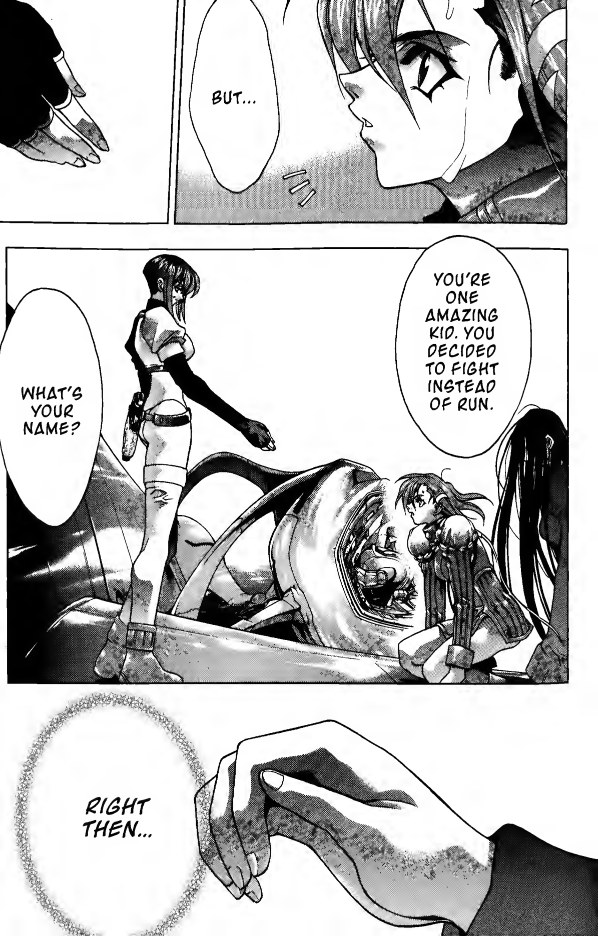

COBY... REX!!
SHIT!! I CAN'T BELIEVE BOTH OF THEM WERE TAKEN OUT...
THAT KID!
SHE'S STILL ALIVE?!
THIS ALL WENT BAD BECAUSE WE GOT DELAYED BY THAT KID.
AND NOW I CAN'T EVEN BRING THE DEEP SEA CURRENT DATA TO THE SHOGUN...
AT THE VERY LEAST, I'M TAKING THAT KID DOWN WITH ME...!!
??!

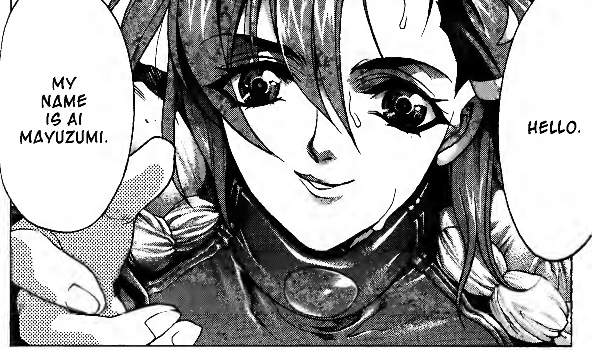

WHAT? WHO'S THAT GIRL?!
KEI! DID YOU KNOW SHE WAS THERE!?
SINCE WHEN WAS SHE THERE
KOUREI! MOVE THE BOAT!!
IF ONLY YOU HADN'T COME CHASING AFTER US!
RUN!!
YOU!!
I'M NOT RUNNING!!!

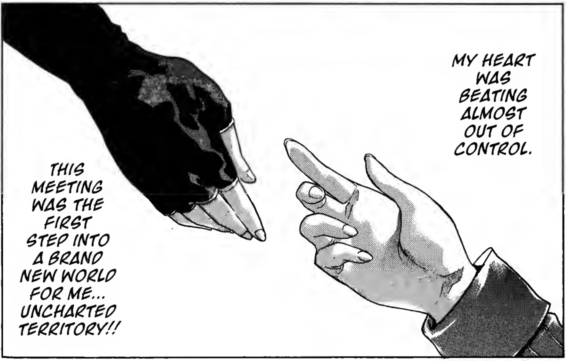

NO WAY...


WHAT A RECKLESS KID!!
SHE RAMMED RIGHT INTO THE ERROR GUY!
KOURE!!
HURRY UP AND PULL THAT KID OUT!
UH...
OKAY!!
KEI? THIS IS EMILY.
WE'VE RECOVERED THE DEEP SEA CURRENT DATA FROM THE ERROR PEOPLE'S SHIP! THEY WERE KIND ENOUGH TO LOCK THE PROGRAMS UNDER SEVERAL DIFFICULT LAYERS.
BUT YOU KNOW HOW I'M NOT ONLY BEAUTIFUL, BUT ALSO A GENIUS? WELL, I HAD THIS BRILLIANT INSPIRATION, YOU SEE...

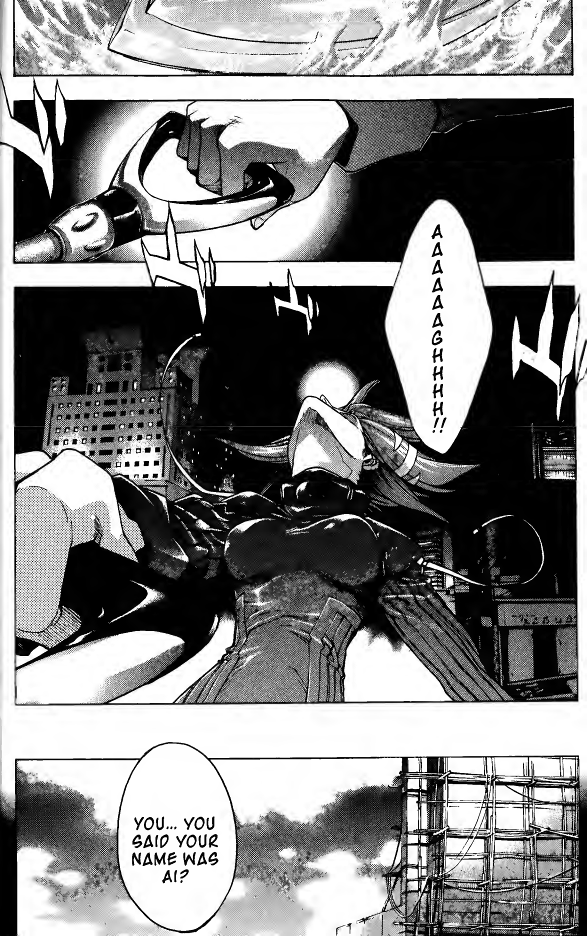

……
HEY!! YOU'RE NOT EVEN GOING TO TAKE A DIG?!
I'M TELLING YOU THAT THE DATA IS SAFE! ARE YOU LISTENING? KEI?!
KAFF!
KAFF!
HUUYCK!
YOU! THAT WAS AMAZING! I CAN'T BELIEVE YO WERE ABLE TO RAM HIM FROM THAT ANGLE!!
HUFF!
YOU'VE GOT GUTS!!
HUFF!
Y'KNOW?!
KEI...
KOUREI!
IF SHE HADN'T DONE IT, WE WOULD HAVE TAKEN CARE OF HIM.

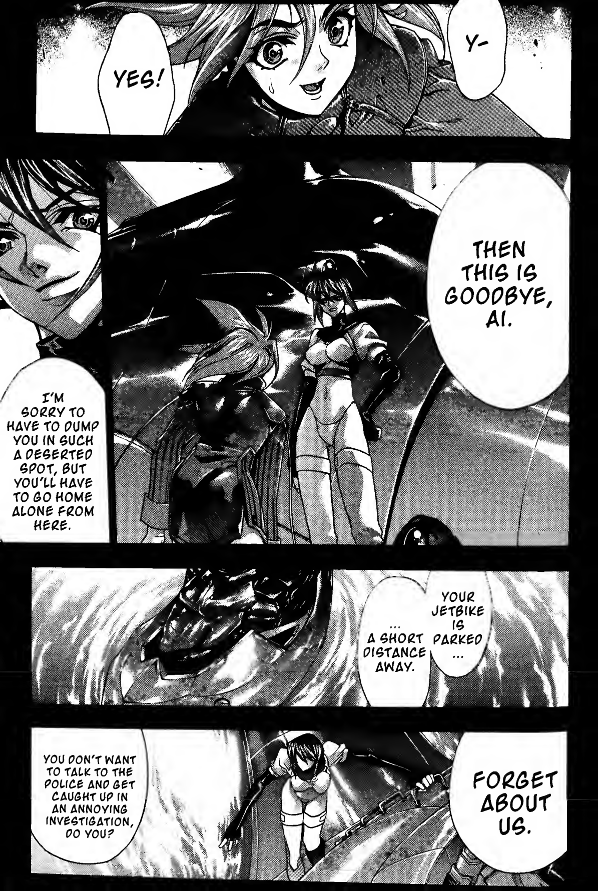

BUT...
YOU'RE ONE AMAZING KID. YOU DECIDED TO FIGHT INSTEAD OF RUN.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
RIGHT THEN...

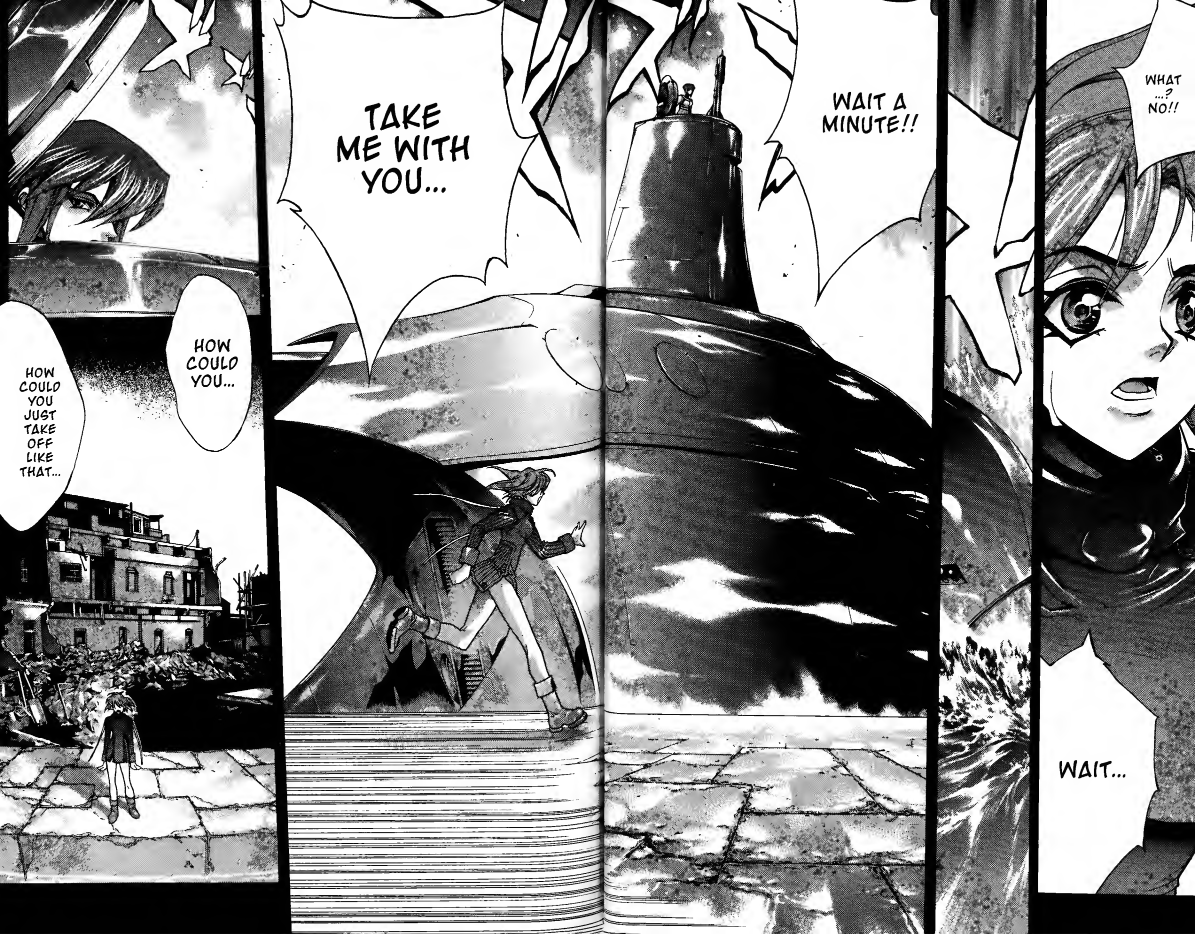

HELLO.
MY NAME IS AI MAYUZUMI.

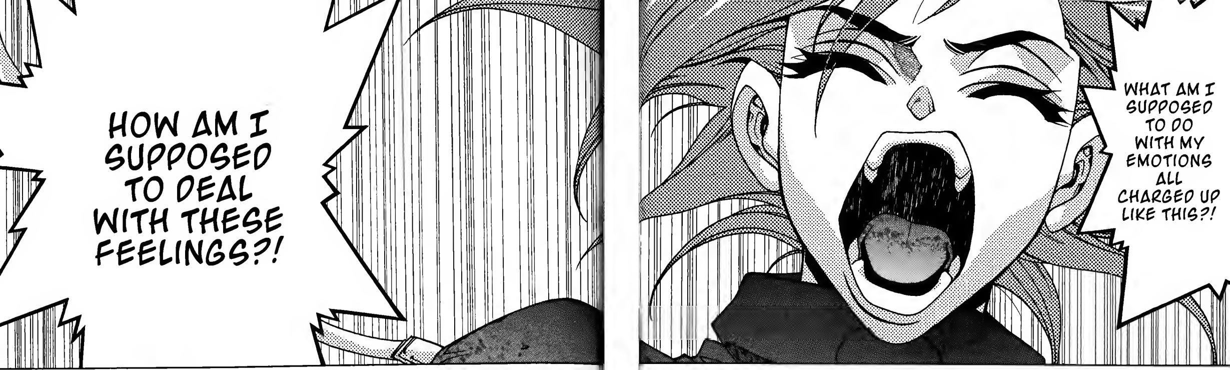

MY HEART WAS BEATING ALMOST OUT OF CONTROL.
THIS MEETING WAS THE FIRST STEP INTO A BRAND NEW WORLD FOR ME... UNCHARTED TERRITORY!!

... OR SO I THOUGHT...

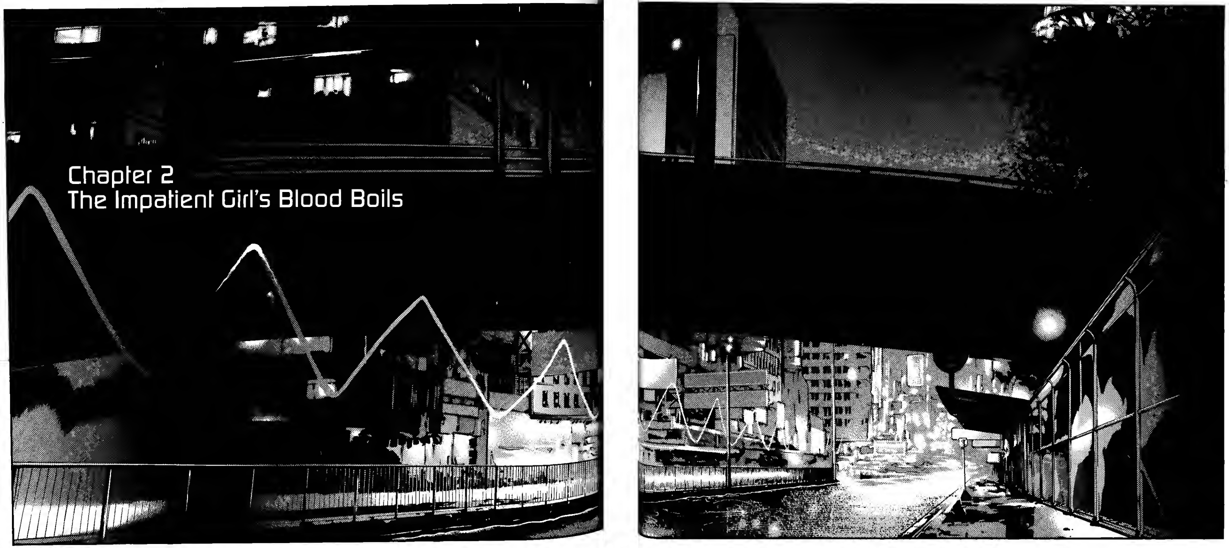

AAAAAAGHHHH!!
YOU... YOU SAID YOUR NAME WAS AI?

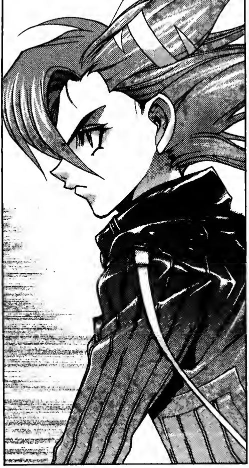

Y-
YES!
THEN THIS IS GOODBYE, AI.
I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO DUMP YOU IN SUCH A DESERTED SPOT, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO GO HOME ALONE FROM HERE.
YOUR JETBIKE IS PARKED ...
... A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY.
FORGET ABOUT US.
YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK TO THE POLICE AND GET CAUGHT UP IN AN ANNOYING INVESTIGATION, DO YOU?


WHAT ...? NO!!
WAIT...
WAIT A MINUTE!!
TAKE ME WITH YOU...
HOW COULD YOU...
HOW COULD YOU JUST TAKE OFF LIKE THAT...

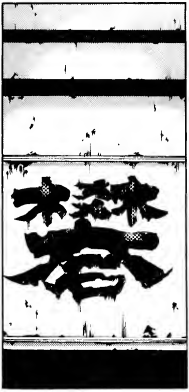

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH MY EMOTIONS ALL CHARGED UP LIKE THIS?!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DEAL WITH THESE FEELINGS?!

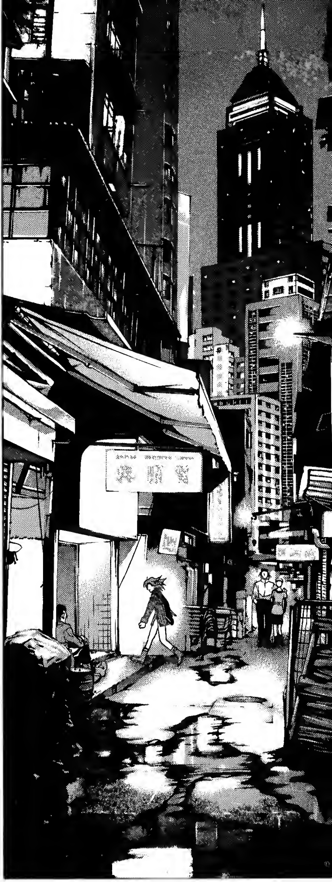
Chapter 2
The Impatient Girl's Blood Boils

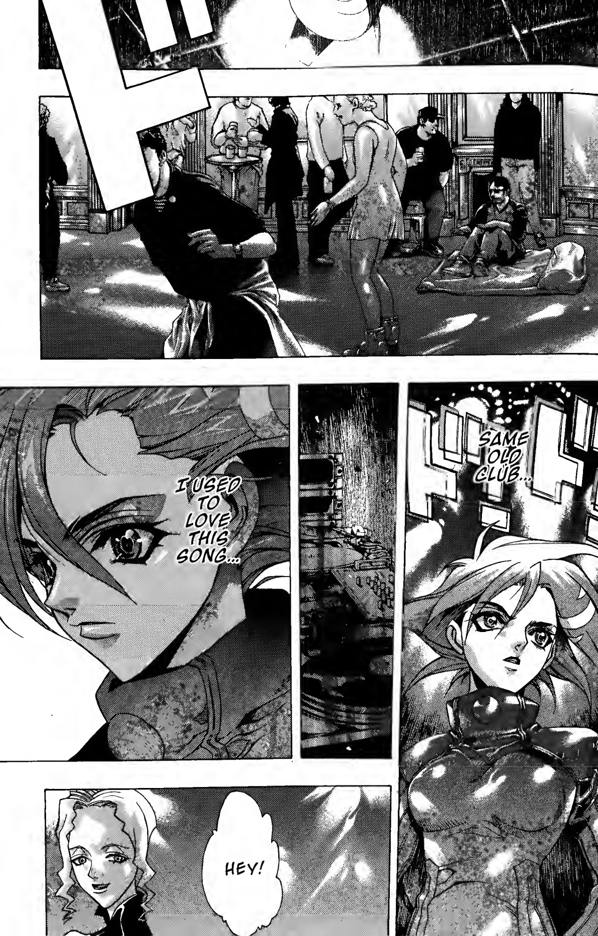


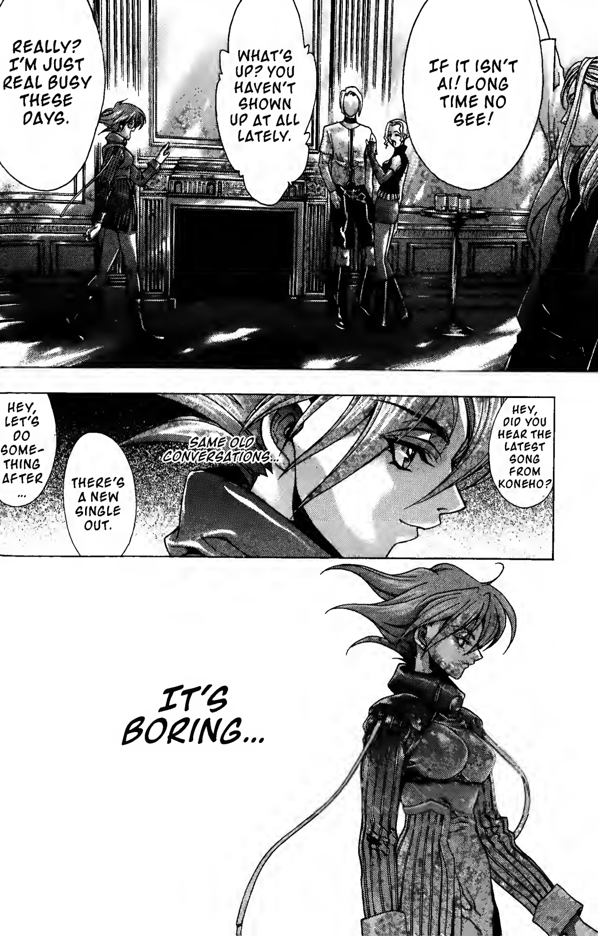


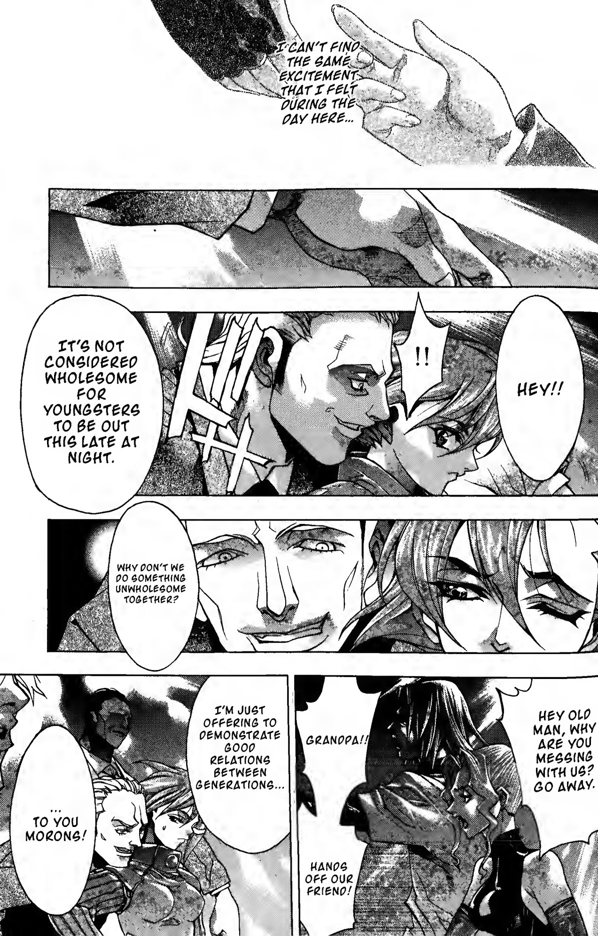
CLUB ALUM

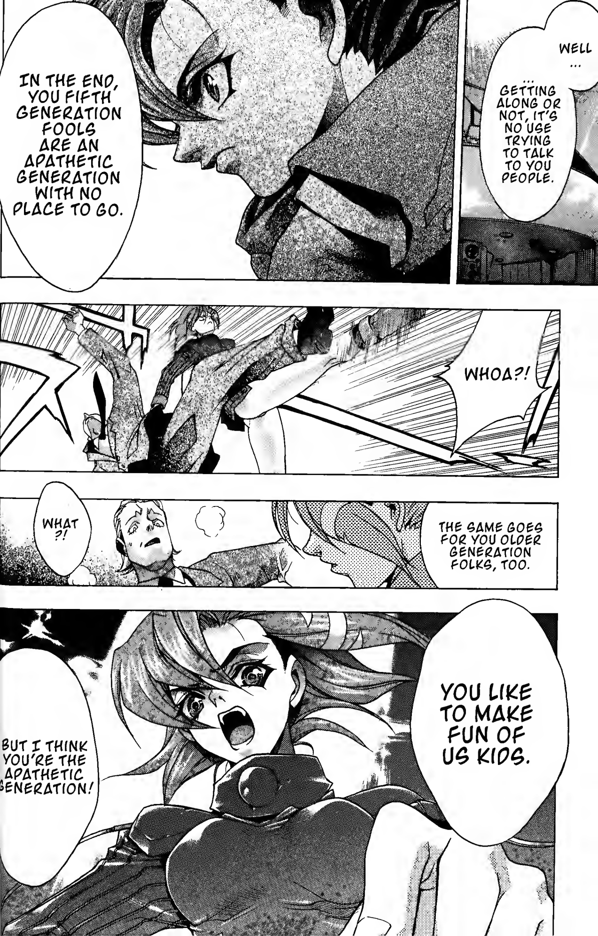


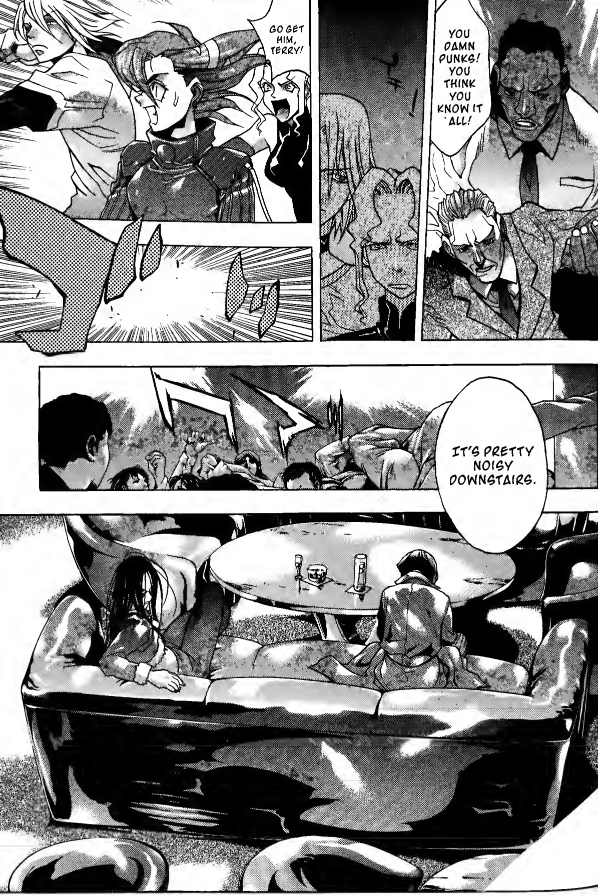


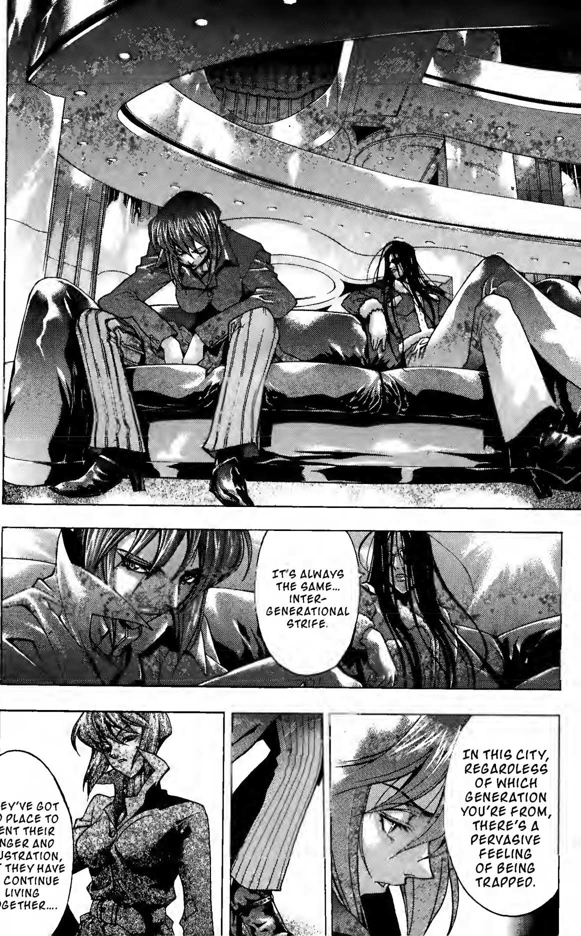

SAME OLD CLUB...
I USED TO LOVE THIS SONG...
HEY!

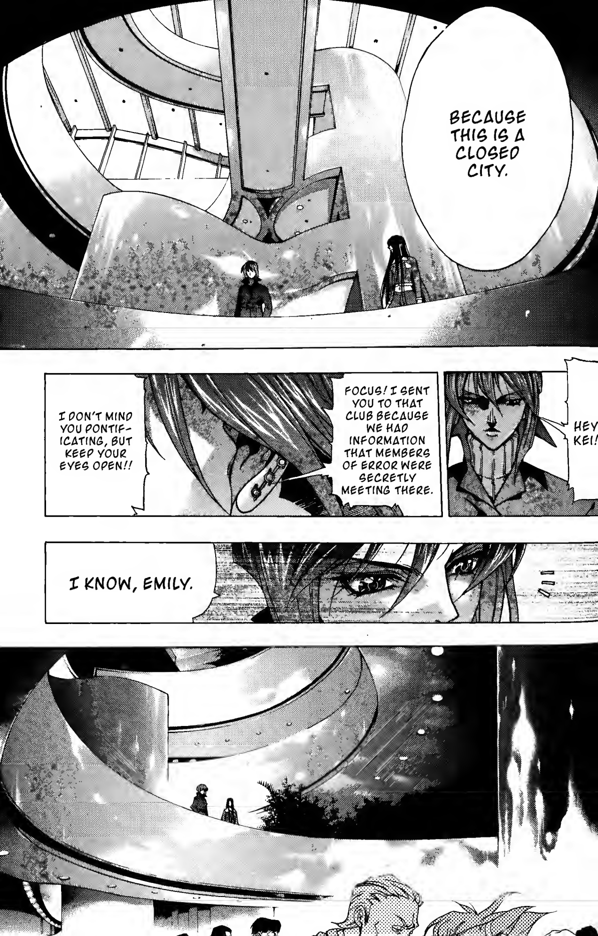

IF IT ISN'T AI! LONG TIME NO SEE!
WHAT'S UP? YOU HAVEN'T SHOWN UP AT ALL LATELY.
REALLY? I'M JUST REAL BUSY THESE DAYS.
HEY, DID YOU HEAR THE LATEST SONG FROM KONEHO?
SAME OLD CONVERSATIONS...
THERE'S A NEW SINGLE OUT.
HEY, LET'S DO SOMETHING AFTER ...
IT'S BORING...

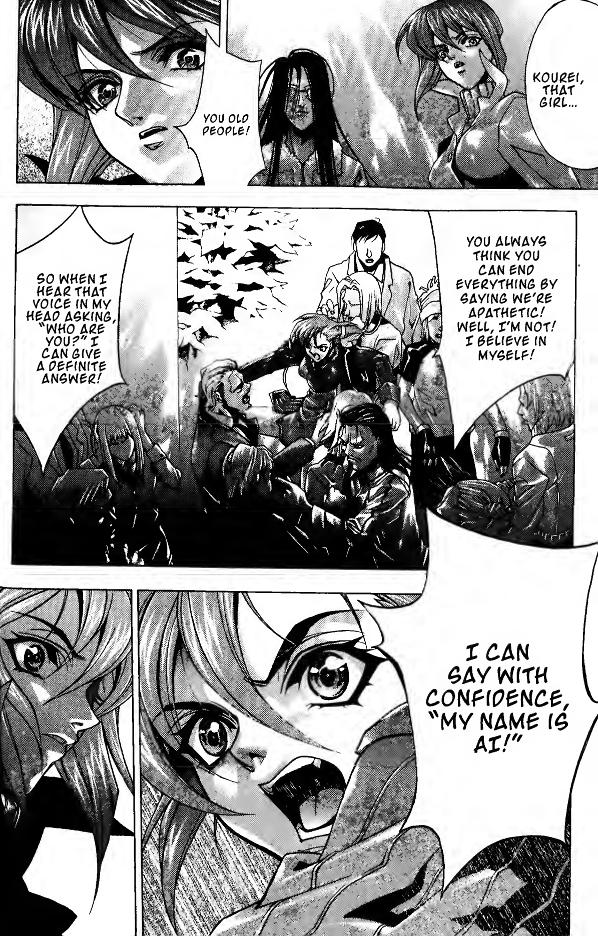

I CAN'T FIND THE SAME EXCITEMENT THAT I FELT DURING THE DAY HERE...
HEY!!
!!
IT'S NOT CONSIDERED WHOLESOME FOR YOUNGSTERS TO BE OUT THIS LATE AT NIGHT.
WHY DON'T WE DO SOMETHING UNWHOLESOME TOGETHER?
HEY OLD MAN, WHY ARE YOU MESSING WITH US? GO AWAY.
GRANDPA!!
HANDS OFF OUR FRIEND!
I'M JUST OFFERING TO DEMONSTRATE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN GENERATIONS...
... TO YOU MORONS!

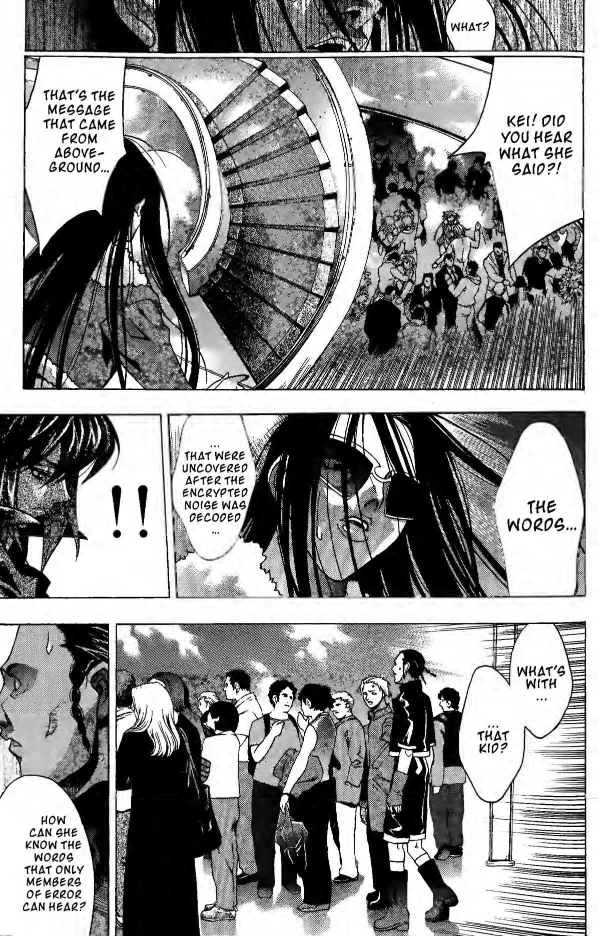

WELL ... ... GETTING ALONG OR NOT, IT'S NO USE TRYING TO TALK TO YOU PEOPLE.
IN THE END, YOU FIFTH GENERATION FOOLS ARE AN APATHETIC GENERATION WITH NO PLACE TO GO.
WHOA?!
THE SAME GOES FOR YOU OLDER GENERATION FOLKS, TOO.
WHAT?!
YOU LIKE TO MAKE FUN OF US KIDS.
BUT I THINK YOU'RE THE APATHETIC GENERATION!

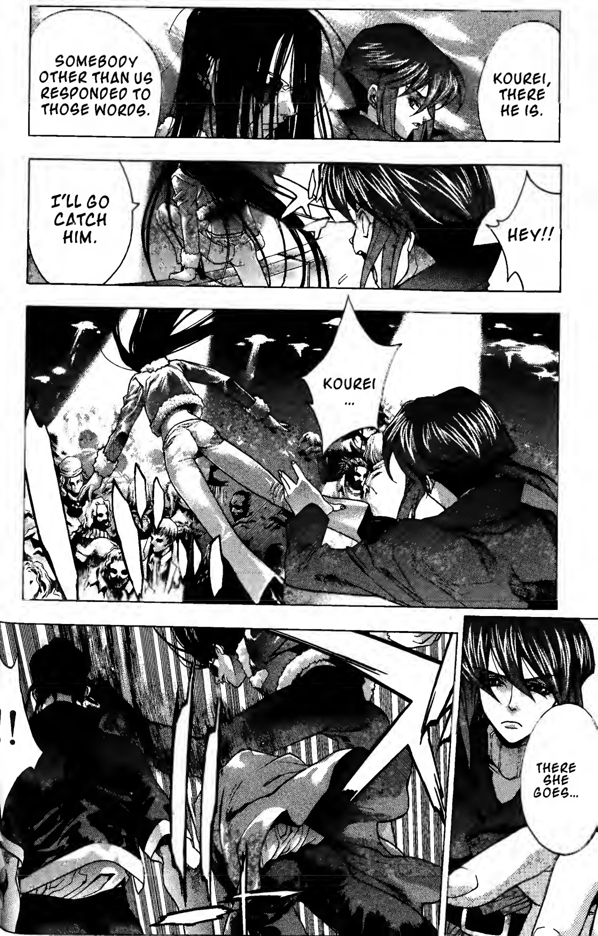

YOU DAMN PUNKS! YOU THINK YOU KNOW IT ALL!
GO GET HIM, TERRY!
IT'S PRETTY NOISY DOWNSTAIRS.

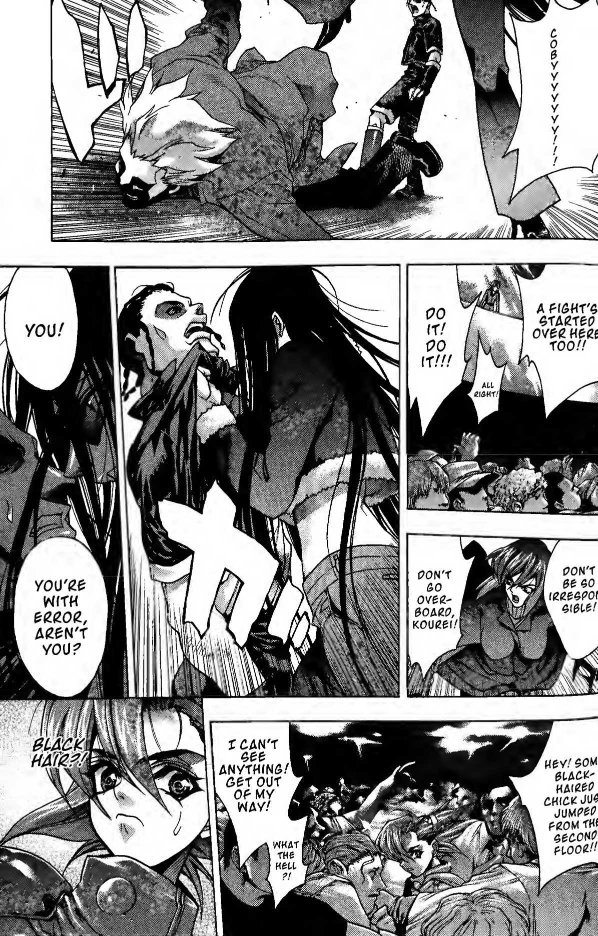

IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME... INTER-GENERATIONAL STRIFE.
IN THIS CITY, REGARDLESS OF WHICH GENERATION YOU'RE FROM, THERE'S A PERVASIVE FEELING OF BEING TRAPPED.
THEY'VE GOT NO PLACE TO VENT THEIR ANGER AND FRUSTRATION, YET THEY HAVE TO CONTINUE LIVING TOGETHER....

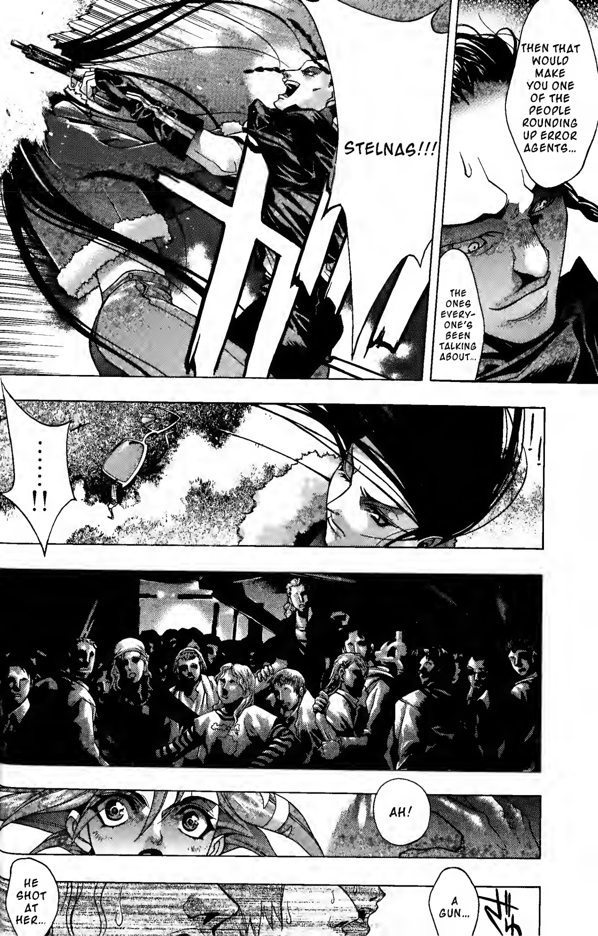

BECAUSE THIS IS A CLOSED CITY.
HEY KEI!
FOCUS! I SENT YOU TO THAT CLUB BECAUSE WE HAD INFORMATION THAT MEMBERS OF ERROR WERE SECRETLY MEETING THERE.
I DON'T MIND YOU PONTIFICATING, BUT KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!!
I KNOW, EMILY.

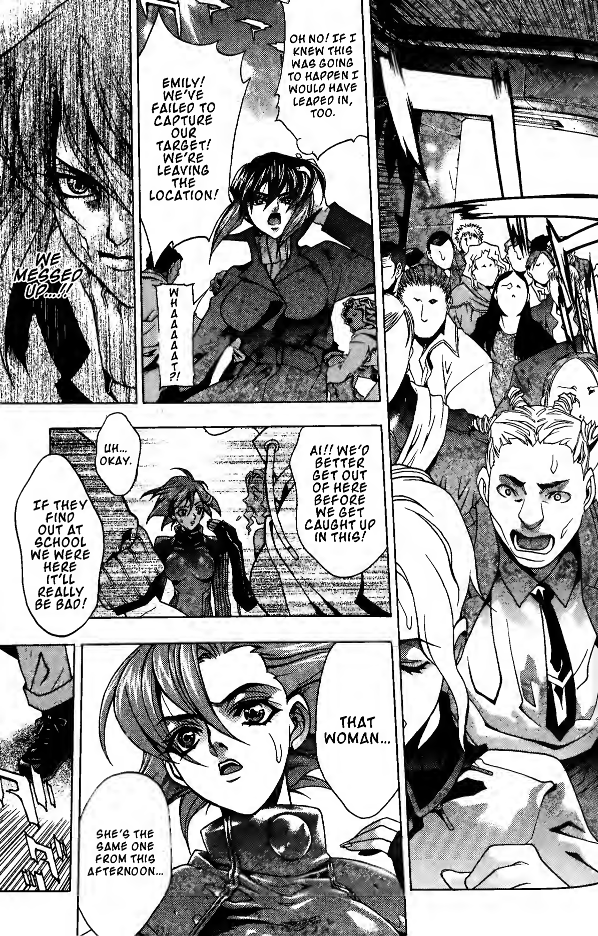

KOUREI, THAT GIRL...
YOU OLD PEOPLE!
YOU ALWAYS THINK YOU CAN END EVERYTHING BY SAYING WE'RE APATHETIC! WELL, I'M NOT! I BELIEVE IN MYSELF!
SO WHEN I HEAR THAT VOICE IN MY HEAD ASKING, "WHO ARE YOU?" I CAN GIVE A DEFINITE ANSWER!
I CAN SAY WITH CONFIDENCE, "MY NAME IS AI!"

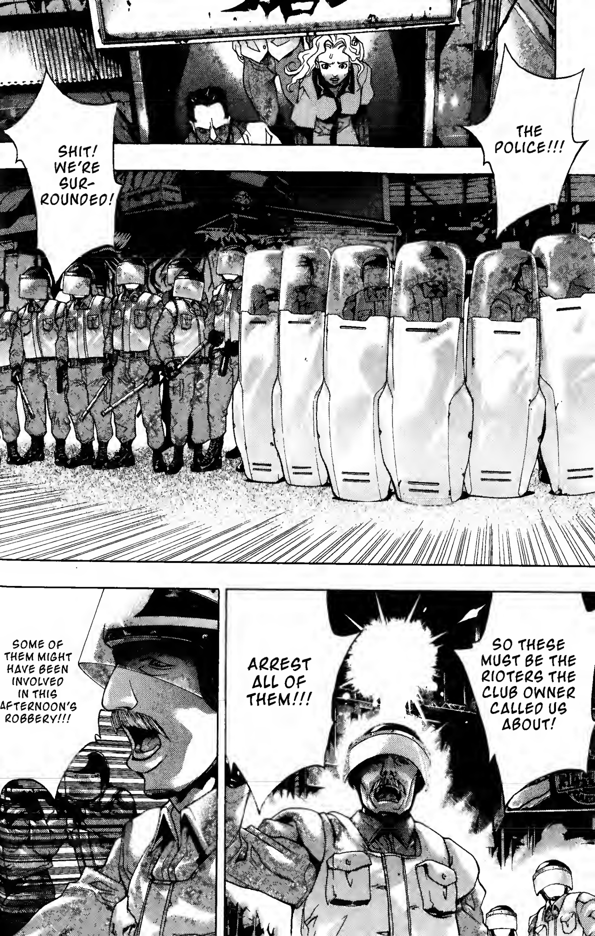

WHAT?
KEI! DID YOU HEAR WHAT SHE SAID?!
THAT'S THE MESSAGE THAT CAME FROM ABOVE-GROUND...
THE WORDS...
...THAT WERE UNCOVERED AFTER THE ENCRYPTED NOISE WAS DECODED...
!!
WHAT'S WITH...
...THAT KID?
HOW CAN SHE KNOW THE WORDS THAT ONLY MEMBERS OF ERROR CAN HEAR?

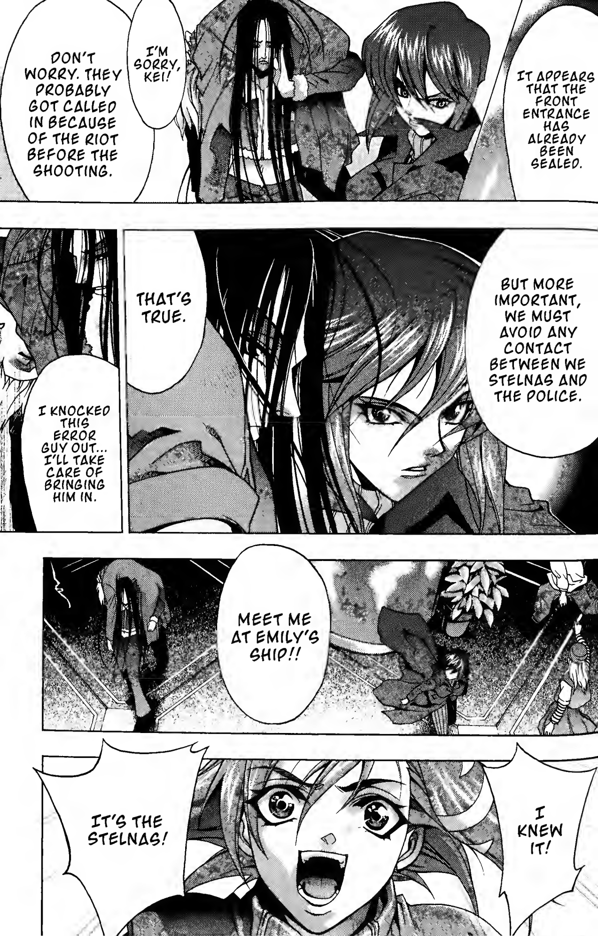

KOUREI, THERE HE IS.
SOMEBODY OTHER THAN US RESPONDED TO THOSE WORDS.
HEY!!
I'LL GO CATCH HIM.
KOUREI ...
THERE SHE GOES...
!

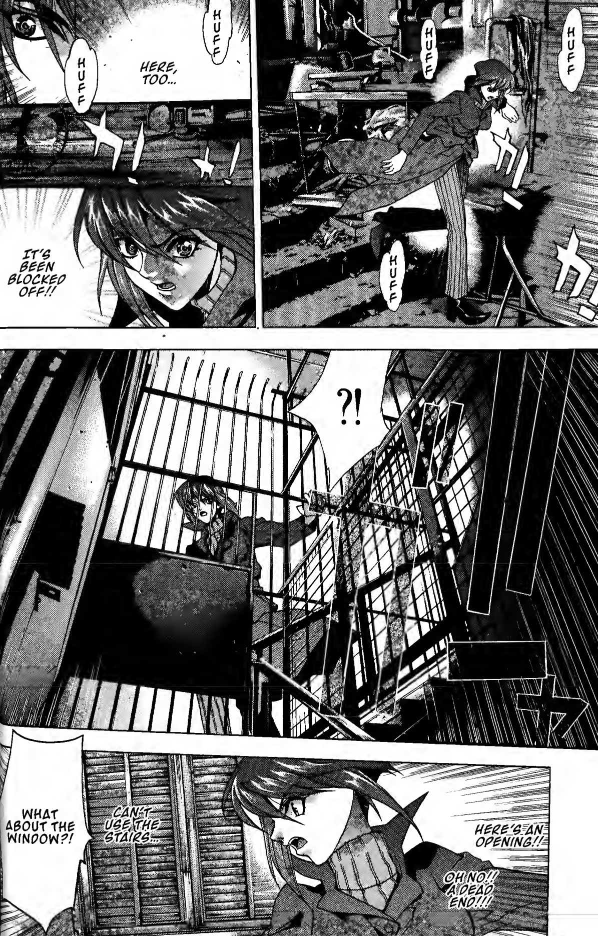

COBYYYYYYYY!!!
A FIGHT'S STARTED OVER HERE TOO!!
DO IT! DO IT!!!
ALL RIGHT!
DON'T BE SO IRRESPON SIBLE!
DON'T GO OVERBOARD, KOUREI!
YOU!
YOU'RE WITH ERROR, AREN'T YOU?
HEY! SOM BLACK-HAIRED CHICK JUS JUMPED FROM THE SECOND FLOOR!!
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING! GET OUT OF MY WAY!
WHAT THE HELL ?!
BLACK HAIR?!

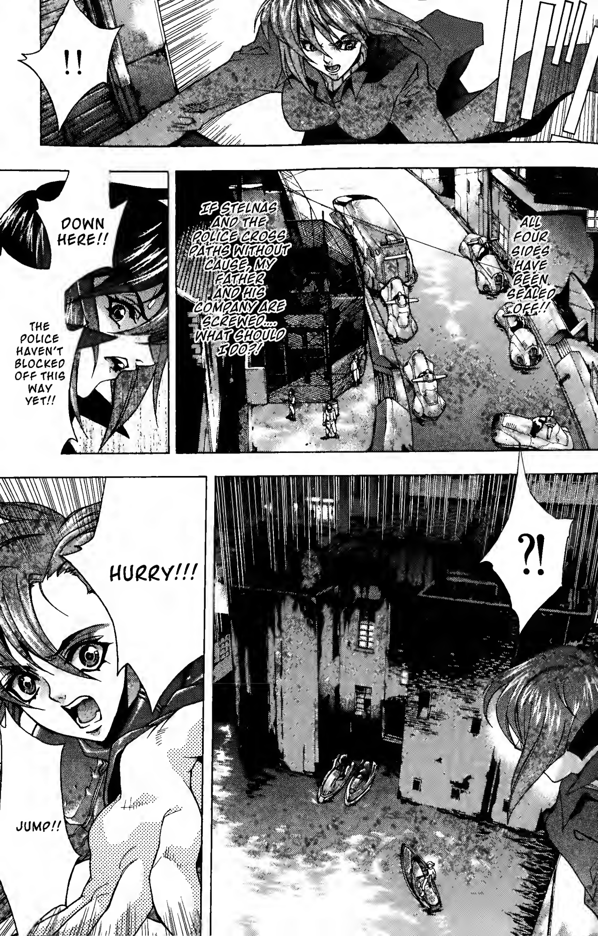

THEN THAT WOULD MAKE YOU ONE OF THE PEOPLE ROUNDING UP ERROR AGENTS...
THE ONES EVERYONE'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT...
STELNAS!!!
!!
......!!
AH!
A GUN...
HE SHOT AT HER...

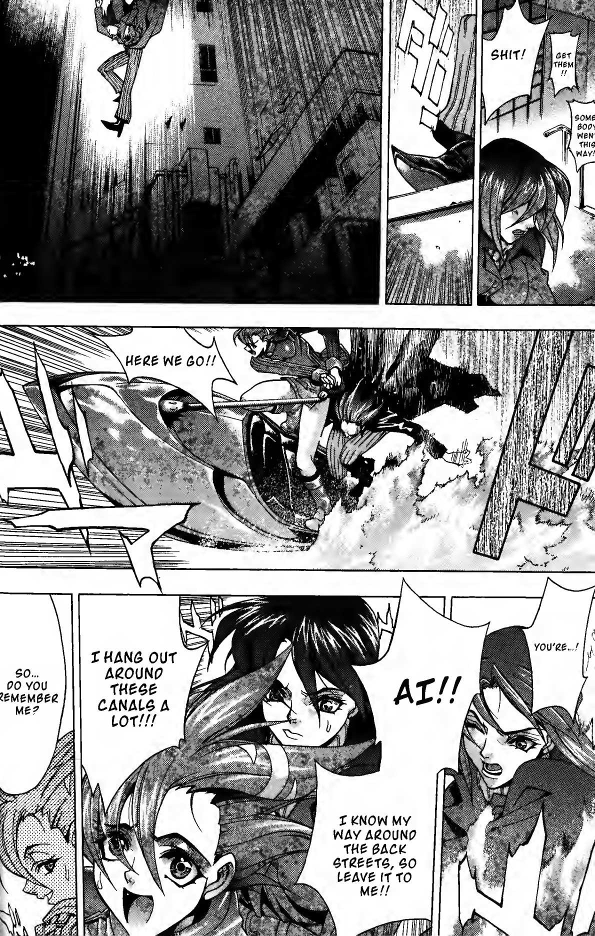

OH NO! IF I KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN I WOULD HAVE LEAPED IN, TOO.
EMILY! WE'VE FAILED TO CAPTURE OUR TARGET! WE'RE LEAVING THE LOCATION!
WHAAAAAAAT?!
WE MESSED UP...!!
AI!! WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE WE GET CAUGHT UP IN THIS!
UH... OKAY.
IF THEY FIND OUT AT SCHOOL WE WERE HERE IT'LL REALLY BE BAD!
THAT WOMAN...
SHE'S THE SAME ONE FROM THIS AFTERNOON...

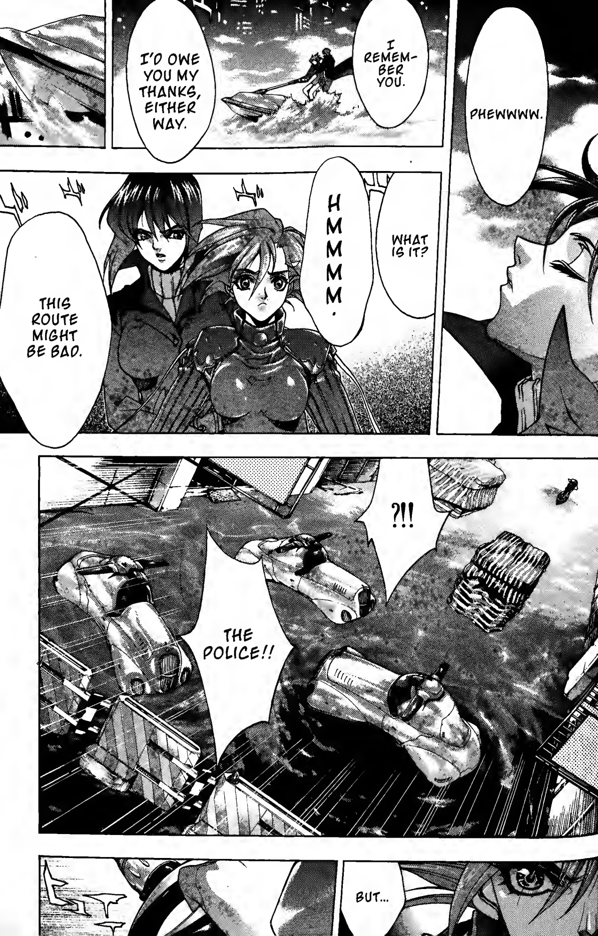

THE POLICE!!!
SHIT! WE'RE SURROUNDED!
SO THESE MUST BE THE RIOTERS THE CLUB OWNER CALLED US ABOUT!
ARREST ALL OF THEM!!!
SOME OF THEM MIGHT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS AFTERNOON'S ROBBERY!!!

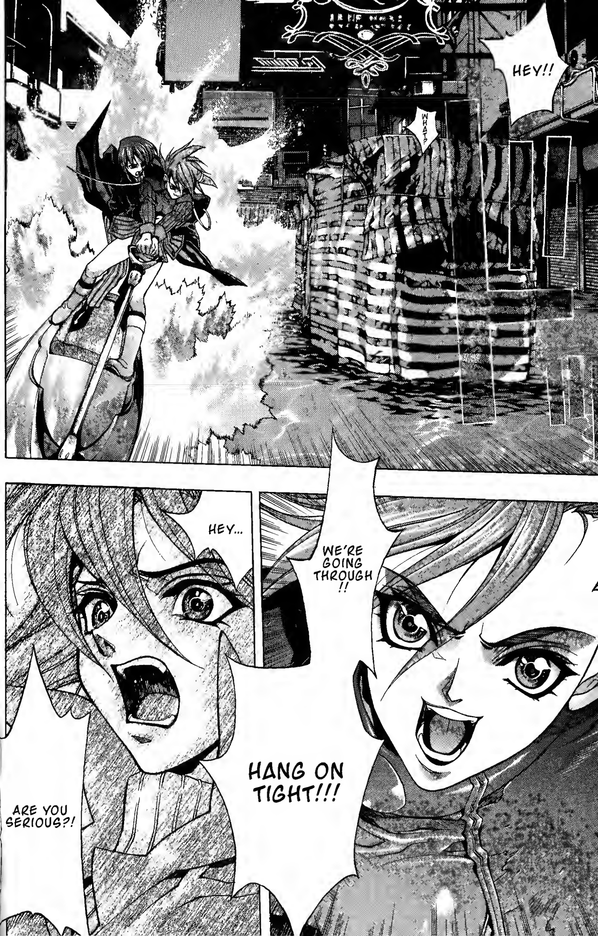

IT APPEARS THAT THE FRONT ENTRANCE HAS ALREADY BEEN SEALED.
I'M SORRY, KEI!
DON'T WORRY. THEY PROBABLY GOT CALLED IN BECAUSE OF THE RIOT BEFORE THE SHOOTING.
BUT MORE IMPORTANT, WE MUST AVOID ANY CONTACT BETWEEN WE STELNAS AND THE POLICE.
THAT'S TRUE.
I KNOCKED THIS ERROR GUY OUT... I'LL TAKE CARE OF BRINGING HIM IN.
MEET ME AT EMILY'S SHIP!!
I KNEW IT!
IT'S THE STELNAS!

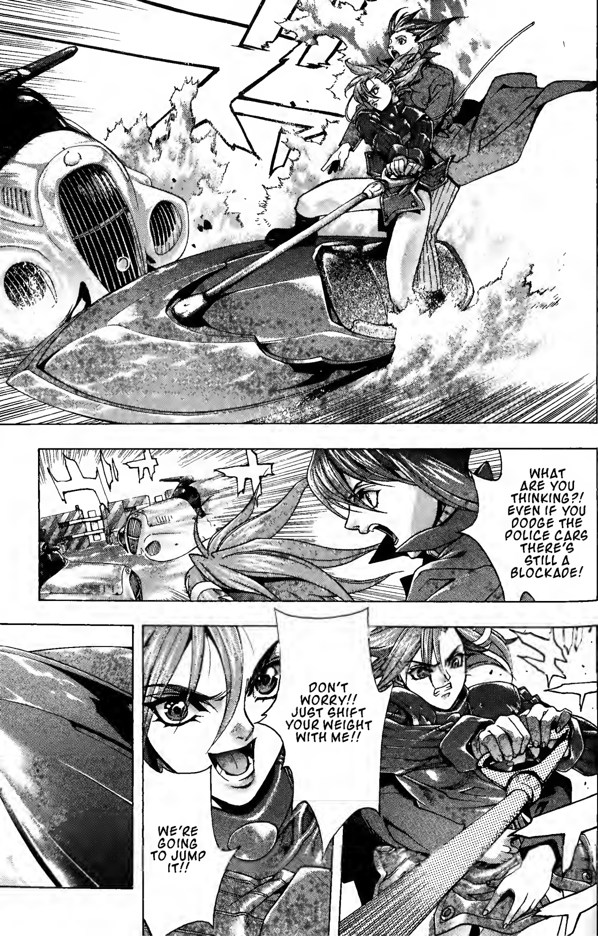

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HERE, TOO...
HUFF
IT'S BEEN BLOCKED OFF!!
?!
HERE'S AN OPENING!!
OH NO!! A DEAD END!!!
CAN'T USE THE STAIRS...
WHAT ABOUT THE WINDOW?!

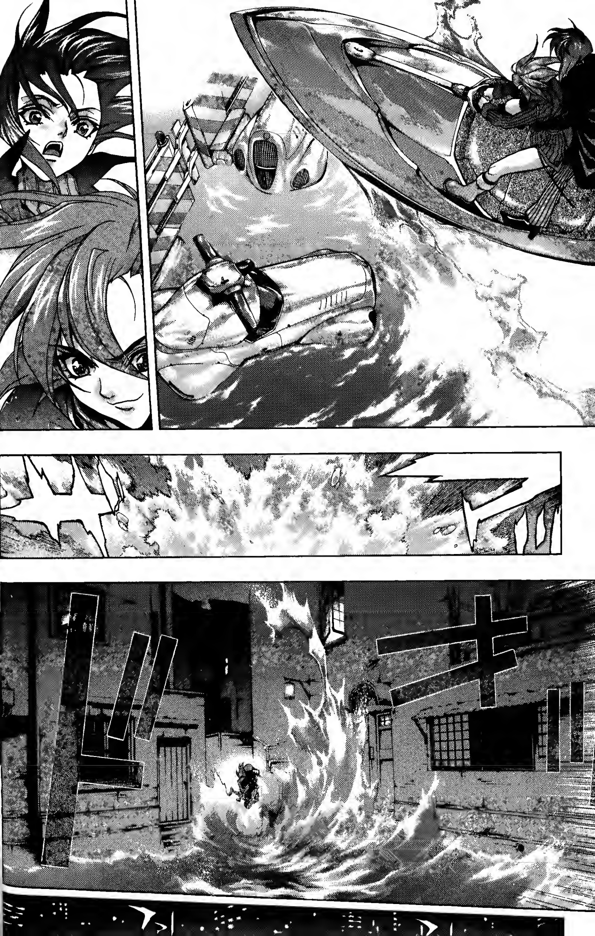

!!
ALL FOUR SIDES HAVE BEEN SEALED OFF!!
IF STELNAS AND THE POLICE CROSS PATHS WITHOUT CAUSE, MY FATHER AND HIS COMPANY ARE SCREWED... WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
DOWN HERE!!
THE POLICE HAVEN'T BLOCKED OFF THIS WAY YET!!
?!
HURRY!!!
JUMP!!


SHIT!
GET THEM !!
SOME BODY WEN THIS WAY!
HERE WE GO!!
YOU'RE...!
AI!!
I HANG OUT AROUND THESE CANALS A LOT!!!
I KNOW MY WAY AROUND THE BACK STREETS, SO LEAVE IT TO ME!!
SO... DO YOU REMEMBER ME?


PHEWWWW.
I REMEMBER YOU.
I'D OWE YOU MY THANKS, EITHER WAY.
WHAT IS IT?
HMMMM.
THIS ROUTE MIGHT BE BAD.
?!!
THE POLICE!!
BUT...


HEY!!
WHAT?
WE'RE GOING THROUGH!!
HEY...
HANG ON TIGHT!!!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!


WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?! EVEN IF YOU DODGE THE POLICE CARS THERE'S STILL A BLOCKADE!
DON'T WORRY!! JUST SHIFT YOUR WEIGHT WITH ME!!
WE'RE GOING TO JUMP IT!!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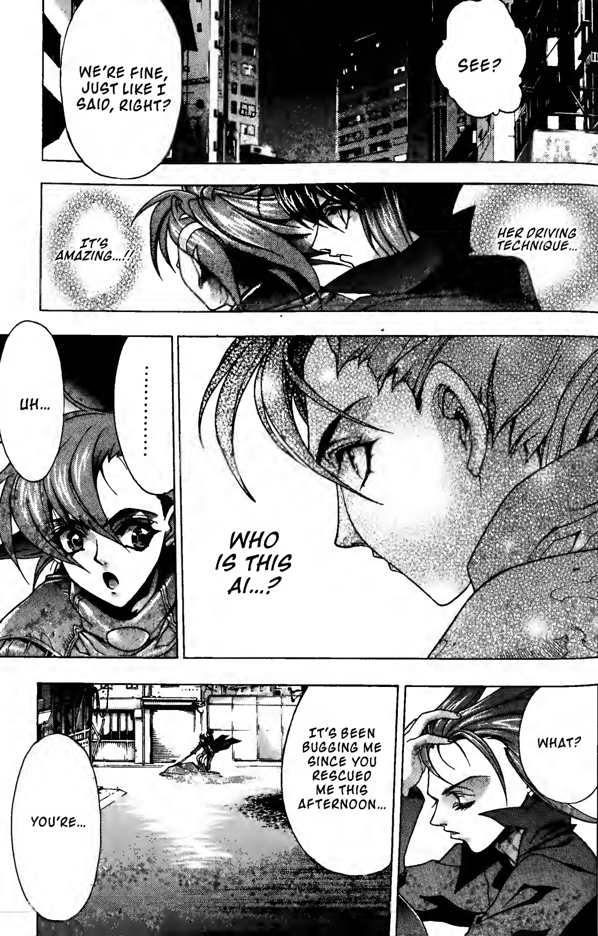
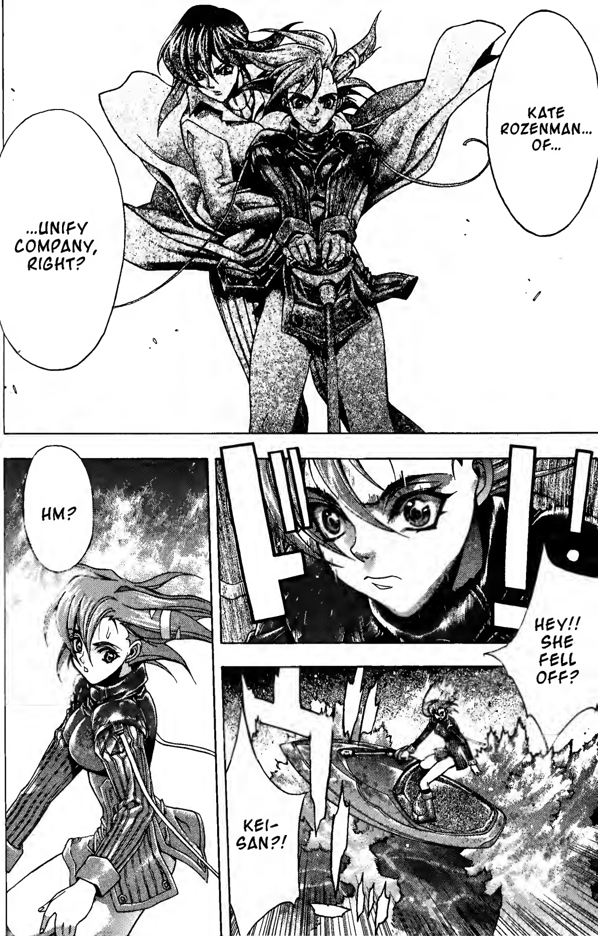
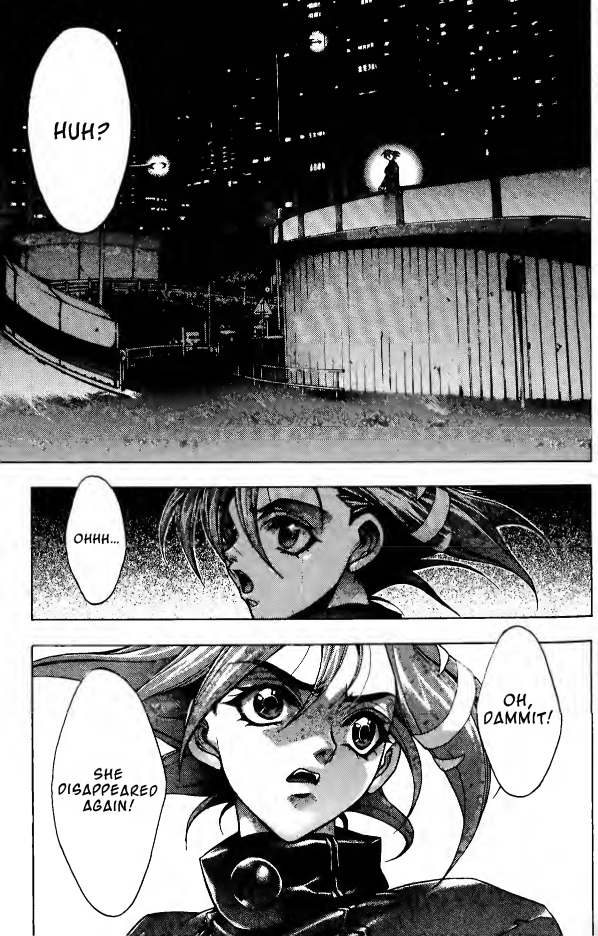
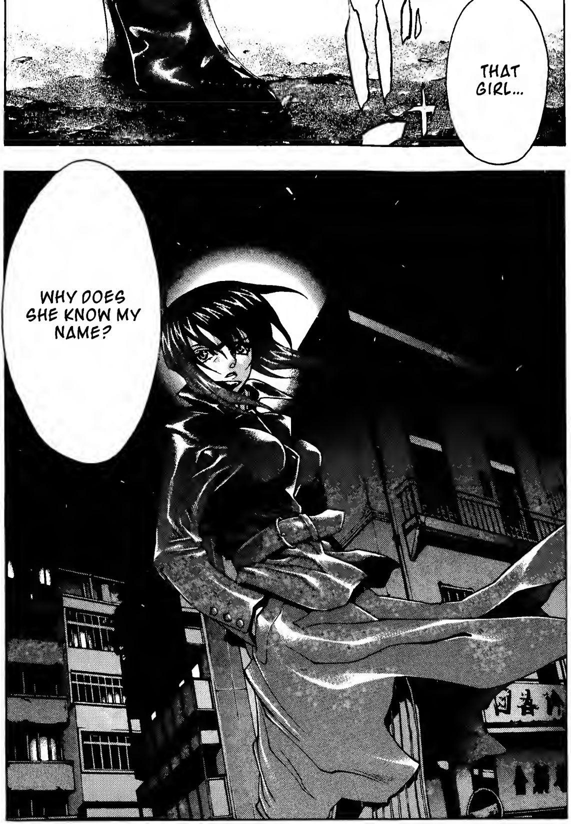
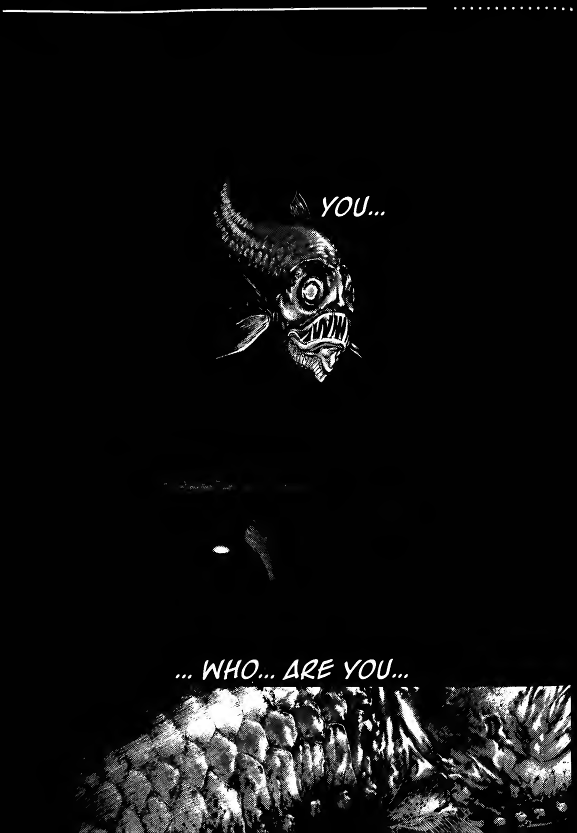
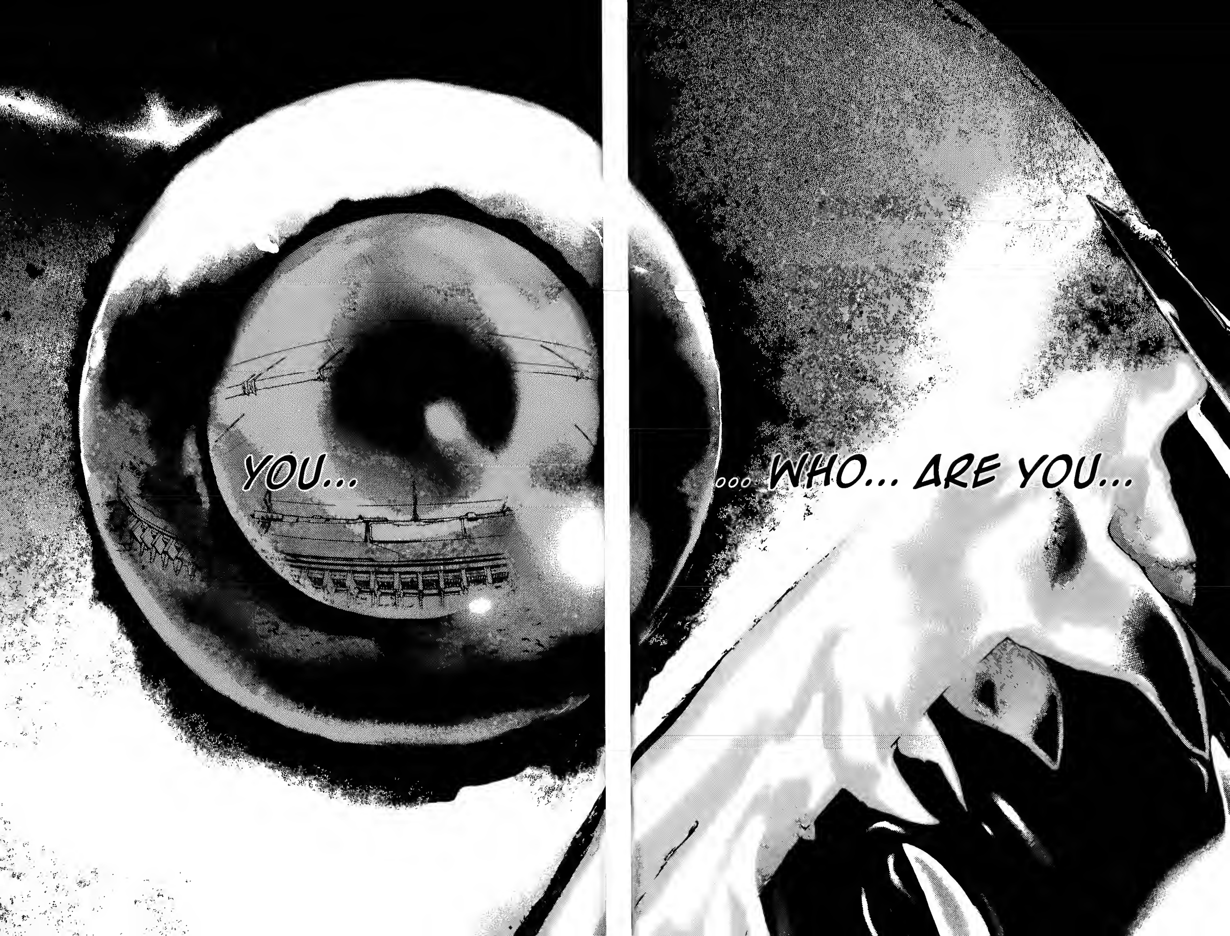

SEE?
WE'RE FINE, JUST LIKE I SAID, RIGHT?
HER DRIVING TECHNIQUE...
IT'S AMAZING...!!
WHO IS THIS AI...?
....
UH...
WHAT?
IT'S BEEN BUGGING ME SINCE YOU RESCUED ME THIS AFTERNOON...
YOU'RE...

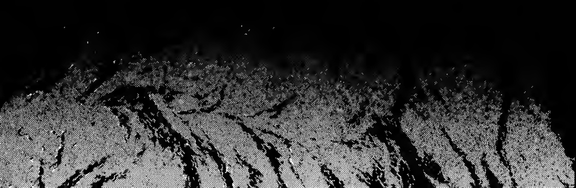

KATE ROZENMAN... OF...
...UNIFY COMPANY, RIGHT?
HEY!! SHE FELL OFF?
KEI-SAN?!
HM?

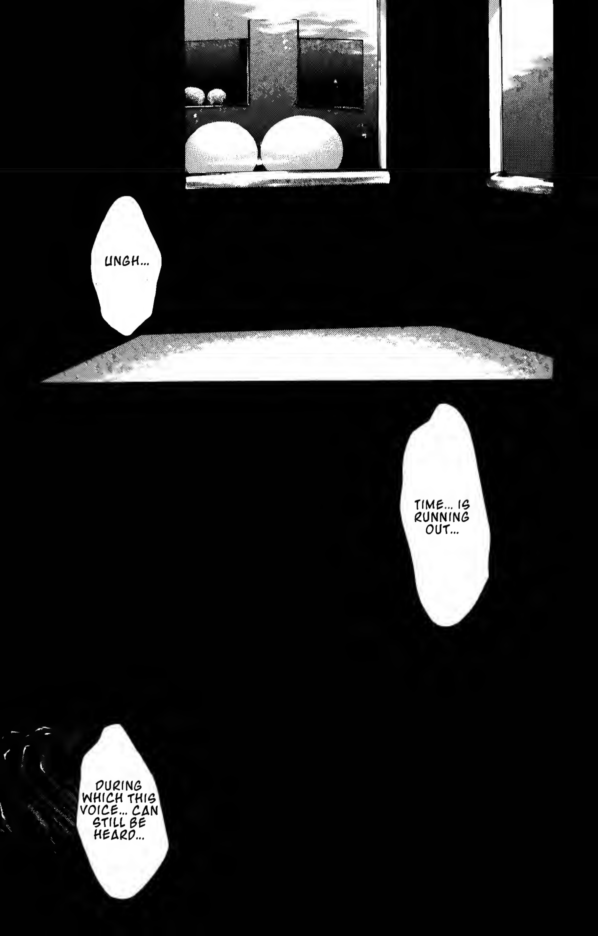

HUH?
OHHH...
OH, DAMMIT!
SHE DISAPPEARED AGAIN!


THAT GIRL...
WHY DOES SHE KNOW MY NAME?

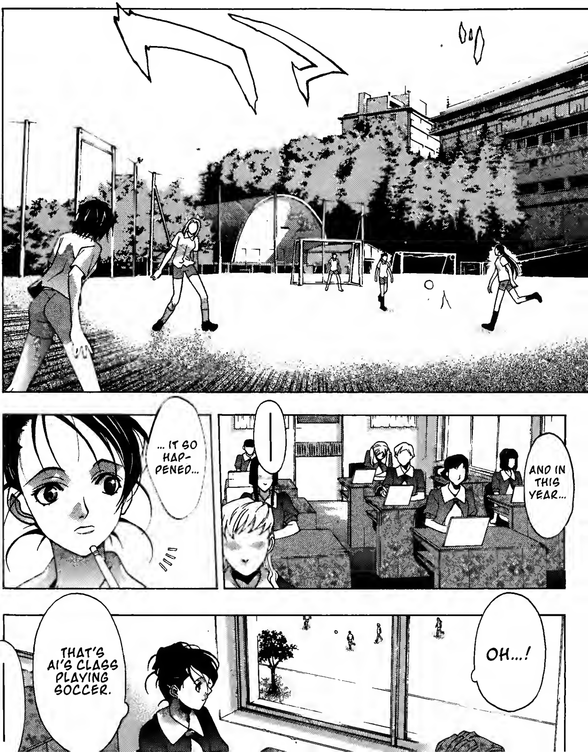

YOU...
... WHO... ARE YOU...

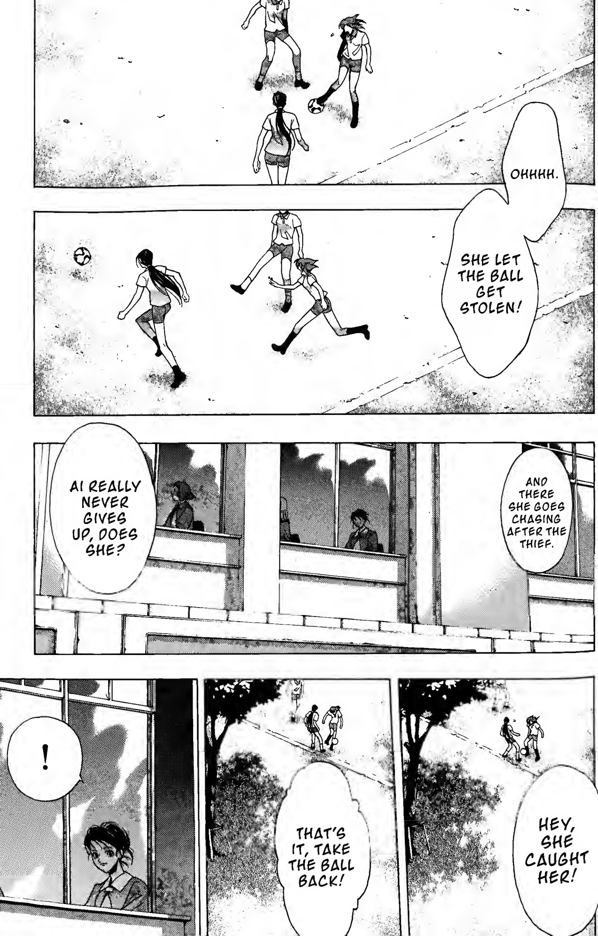

YOU...
... WHO... ARE YOU...

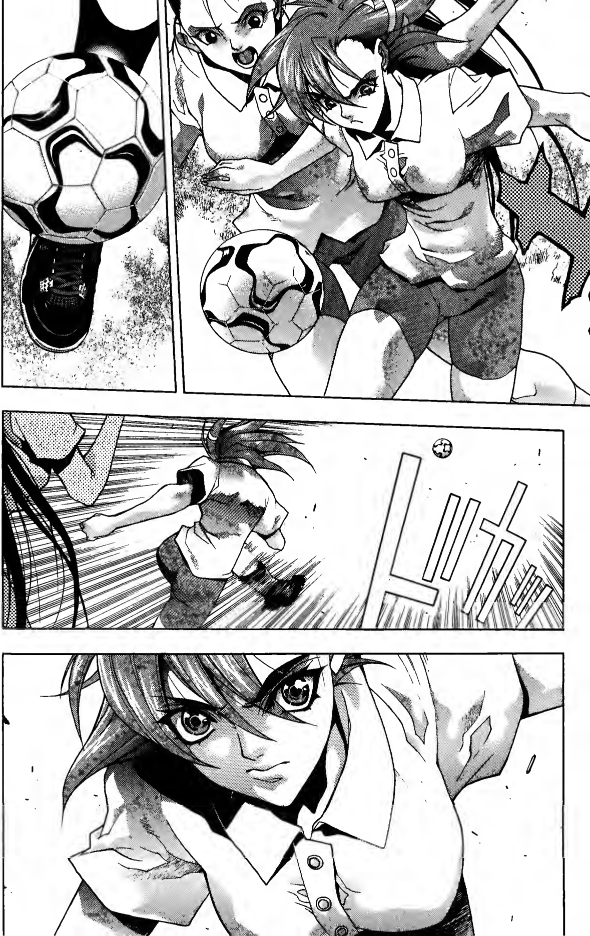


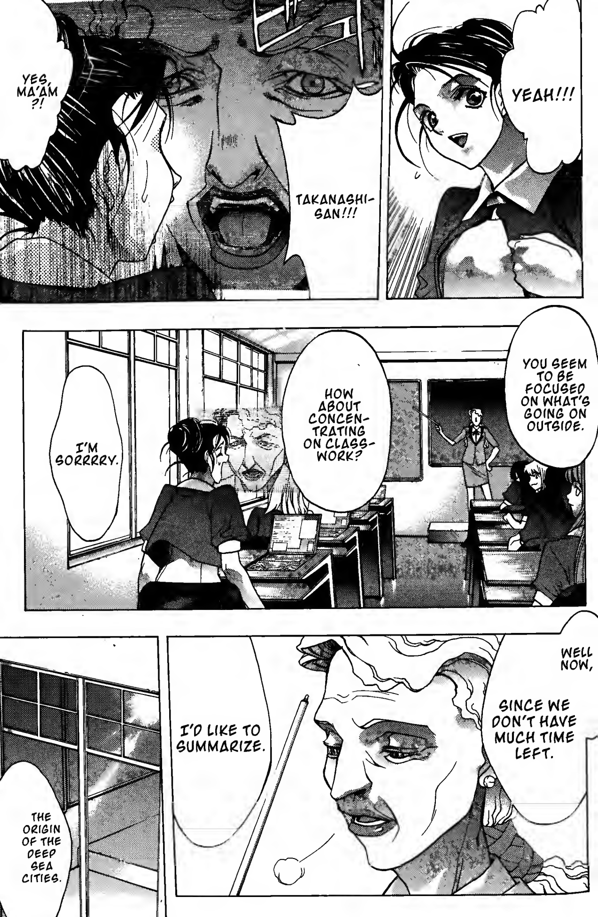

UNGH...
TIME... IS RUNNING OUT...
DURING WHICH THIS VOICE... CAN STILL BE HEARD...

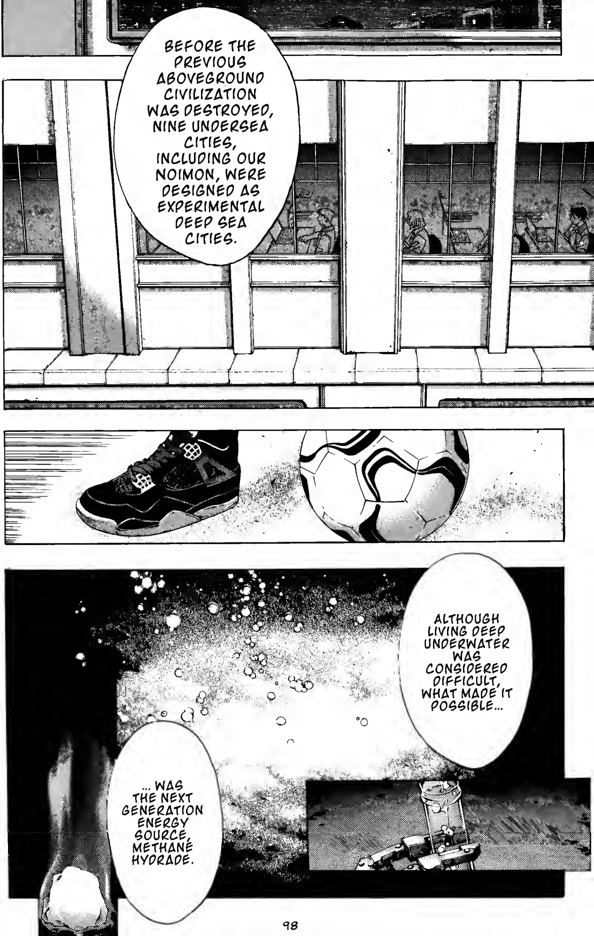
Chapter 3
The Closed City

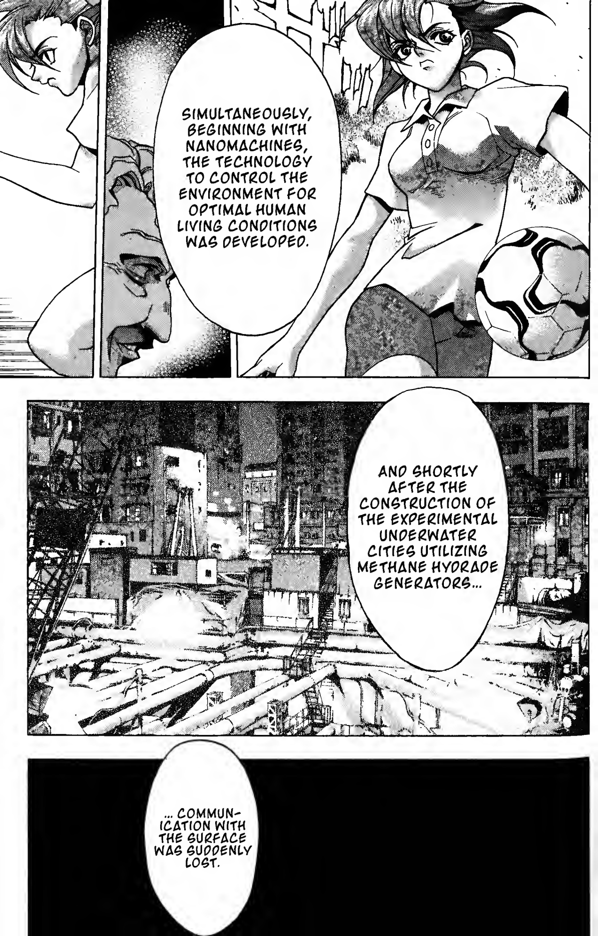

AND IN THIS YEAR...
... IT SO HAPPENED...
OH...!
THAT'S AI'S CLASS PLAYING SOCCER.

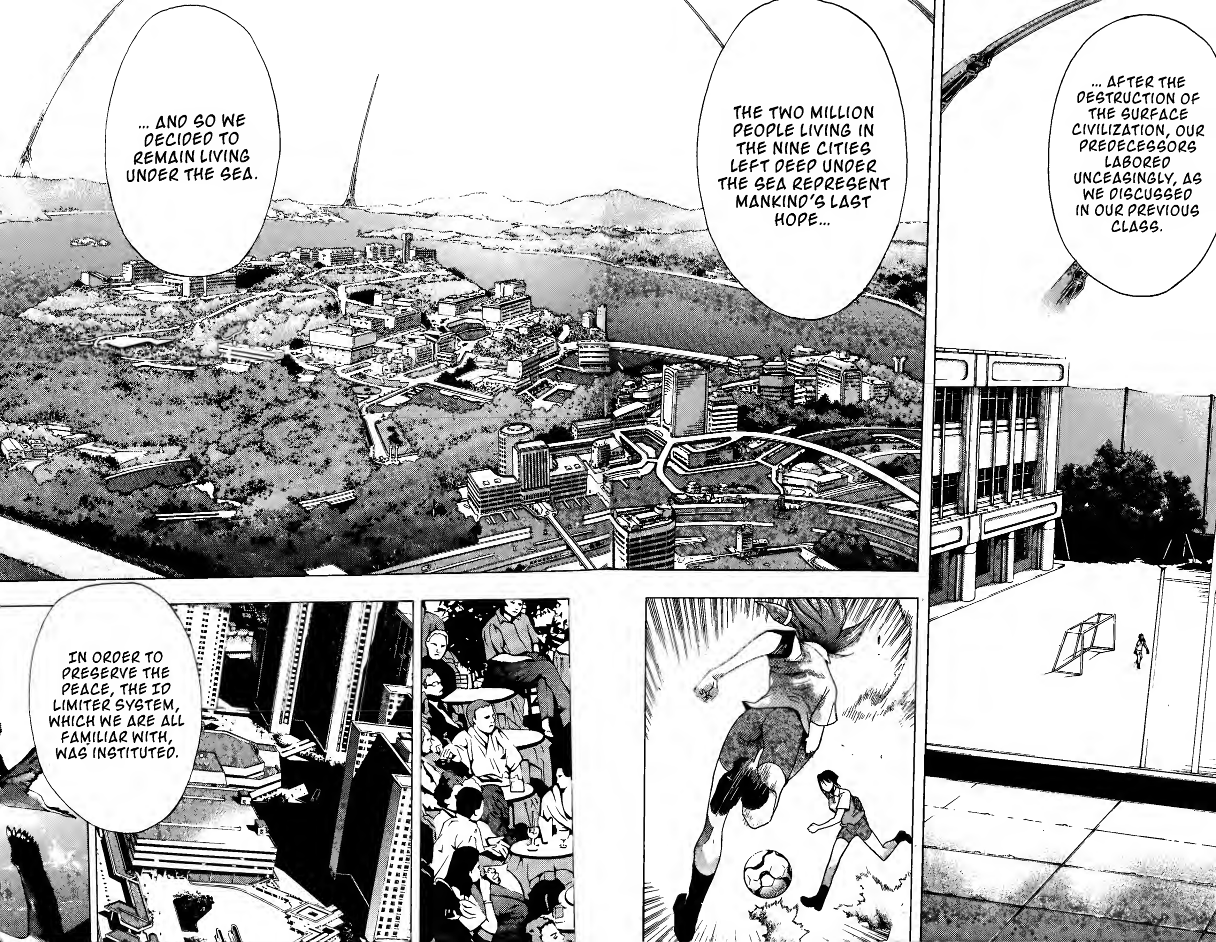

OHHHH.
SHE LET THE BALL GET STOLEN!
AND THERE SHE GOES CHASING AFTER THE THIEF.
AI REALLY NEVER GIVES UP, DOES SHE?
HEY, SHE CAUGHT HER!
THAT'S IT, TAKE THE BALL BACK!
!

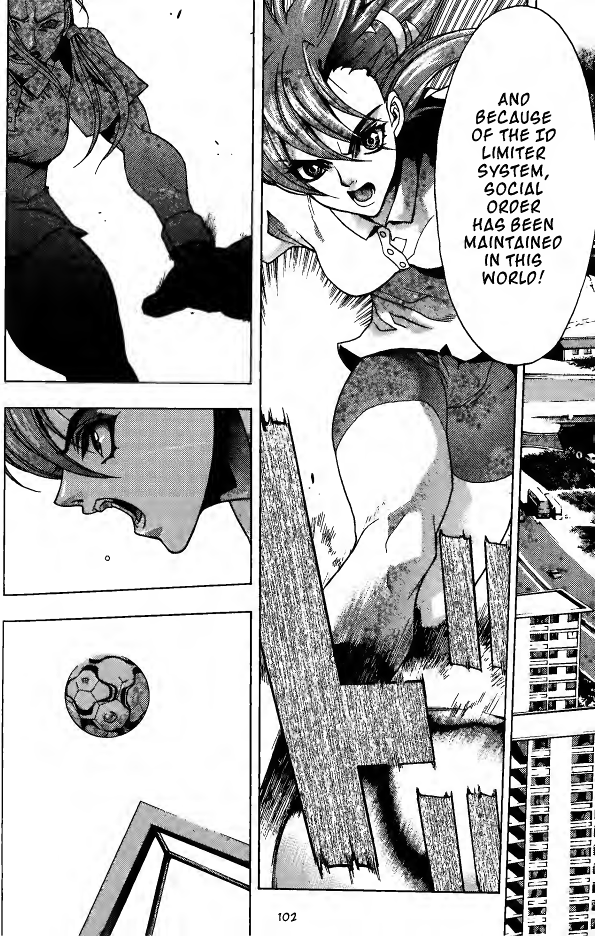

ヒリカッ

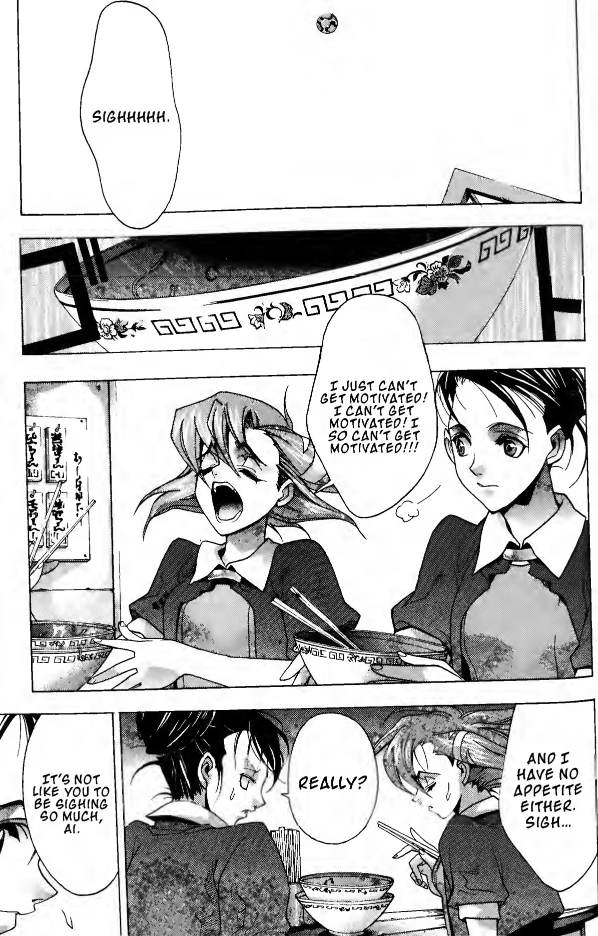

YEAH!!!
TAKANASHI-SAN!!!
YES, MA'AM?!
YOU SEEM TO BE FOCUSED ON WHAT'S GOING ON OUTSIDE.
HOW ABOUT CONCENTRATING ON CLASSWORK?
I'M SORRRRY.
WELL NOW,
SINCE WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT.
I'D LIKE TO SUMMARIZE.
THE ORIGIN OF THE DEEP SEA CITIES.

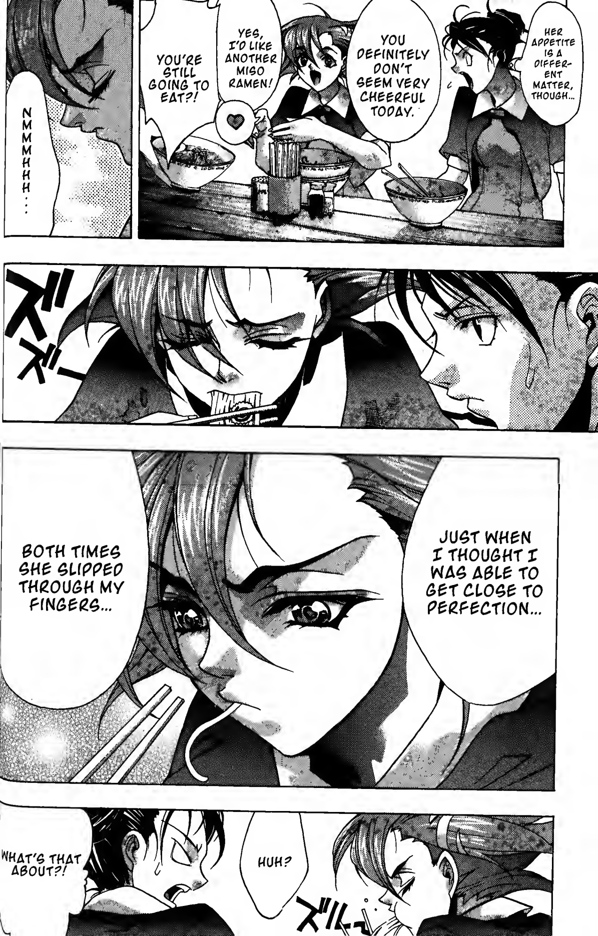

BEFORE THE PREVIOUS ABOVEGROUND CIVILIZATION WAS DESTROYED, NINE UNDERSEA CITIES, INCLUDING OUR NOIMON, WERE DESIGNED AS EXPERIMENTAL DEEP SEA CITIES.
ALTHOUGH LIVING DEEP UNDERWATER WAS CONSIDERED DIFFICULT, WHAT MADE IT POSSIBLE...
... WAS THE NEXT GENERATION ENERGY SOURCE, METHANE HYDRADE.

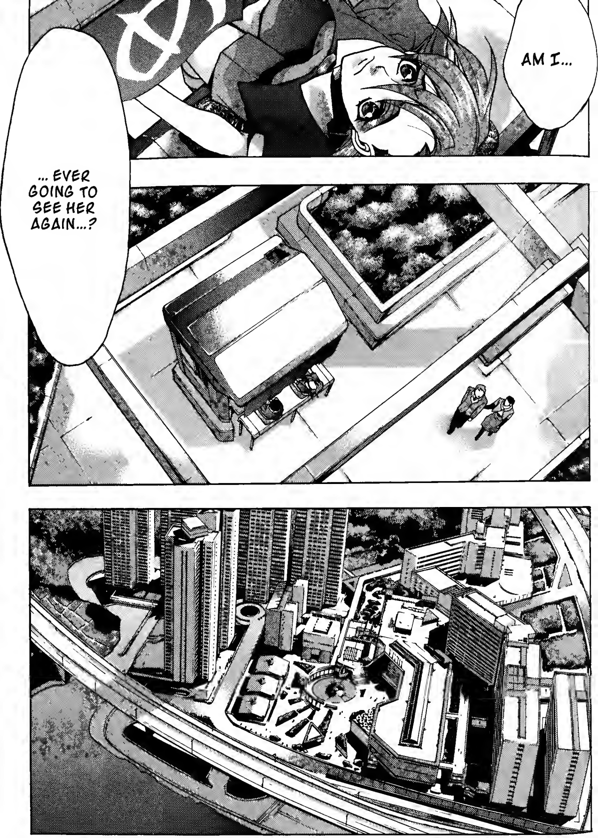

SIMULTANEOUSLY, BEGINNING WITH NANOMACHINES, THE TECHNOLOGY TO CONTROL THE ENVIRONMENT FOR OPTIMAL HUMAN LIVING CONDITIONS WAS DEVELOPED.
AND SHORTLY AFTER THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EXPERIMENTAL UNDERWATER CITIES UTILIZING METHANE HYDRADE GENERATORS...
... COMMUNICATION WITH THE SURFACE WAS SUDDENLY LOST.

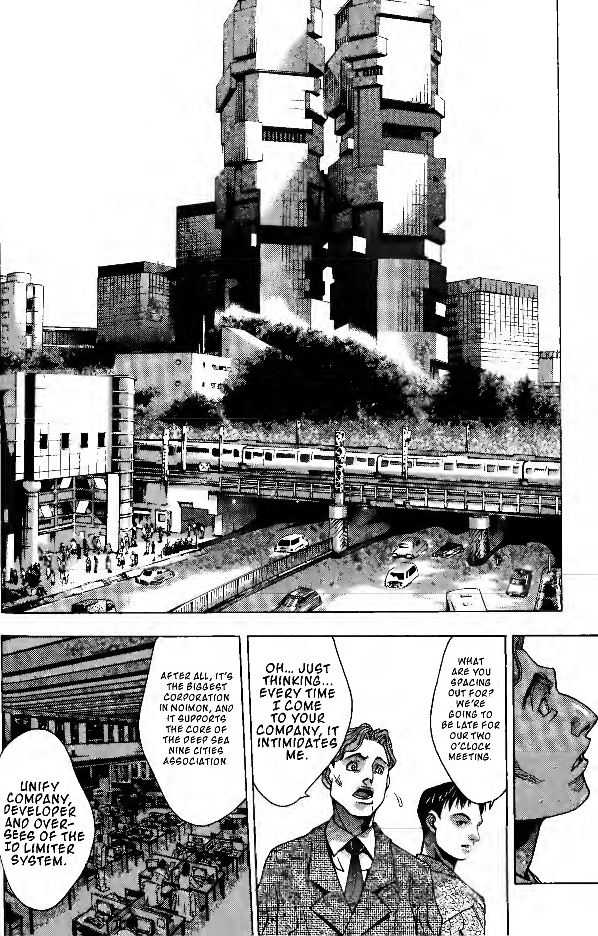

... AFTER THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SURFACE CIVILIZATION, OUR PREDECESSORS LABORED UNCEASINGLY, AS WE DISCUSSED IN OUR PREVIOUS CLASS.
THE TWO MILLION PEOPLE LIVING IN THE NINE CITIES LEFT DEEP UNDER THE SEA REPRESENT MANKIND'S LAST HOPE...
... AND SO WE DECIDED TO REMAIN LIVING UNDER THE SEA.
IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE PEACE, THE ID LIMITER SYSTEM, WHICH WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH, WAS INSTITUTED.

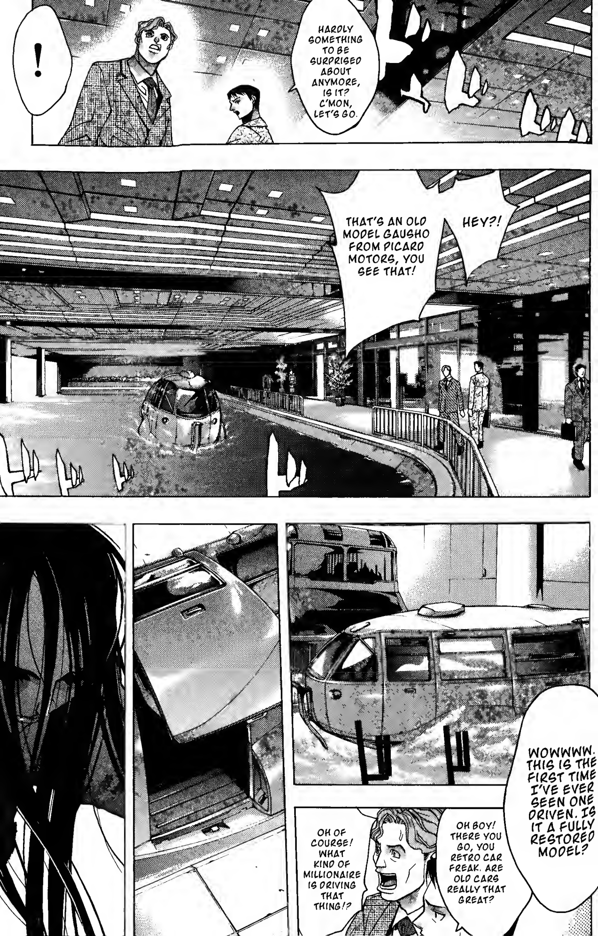

AND BECAUSE OF THE ID LIMITER SYSTEM, SOCIAL ORDER HAS BEEN MAINTAINED IN THIS WORLD!

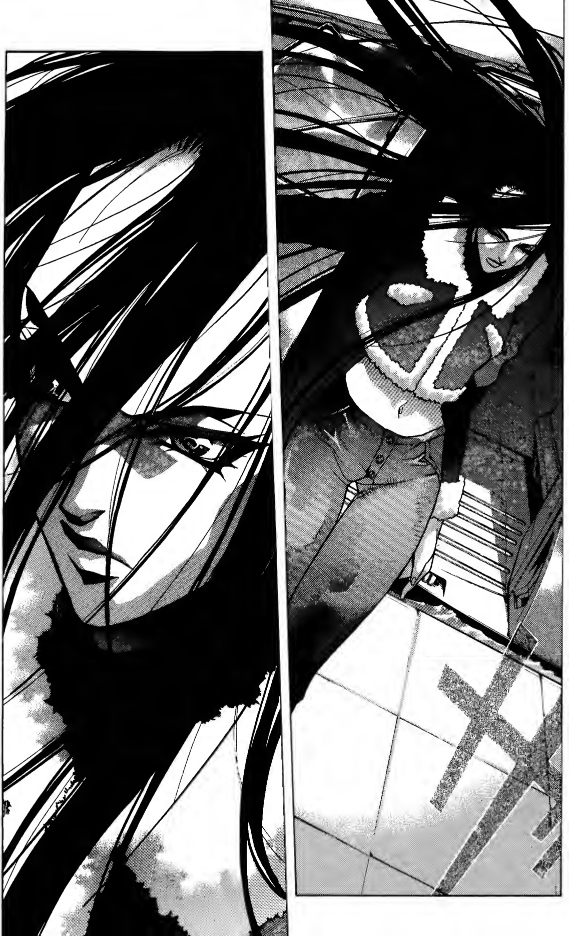

SIGHHHHH.
I JUST CAN'T GET MOTIVATED! I CAN'T GET MOTIVATED! I SO CAN'T GET MOTIVATED!!!
AND I HAVE NO APPETITE EITHER. SIGH...
REALLY?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO BE SIGHING SO MUCH, AI.

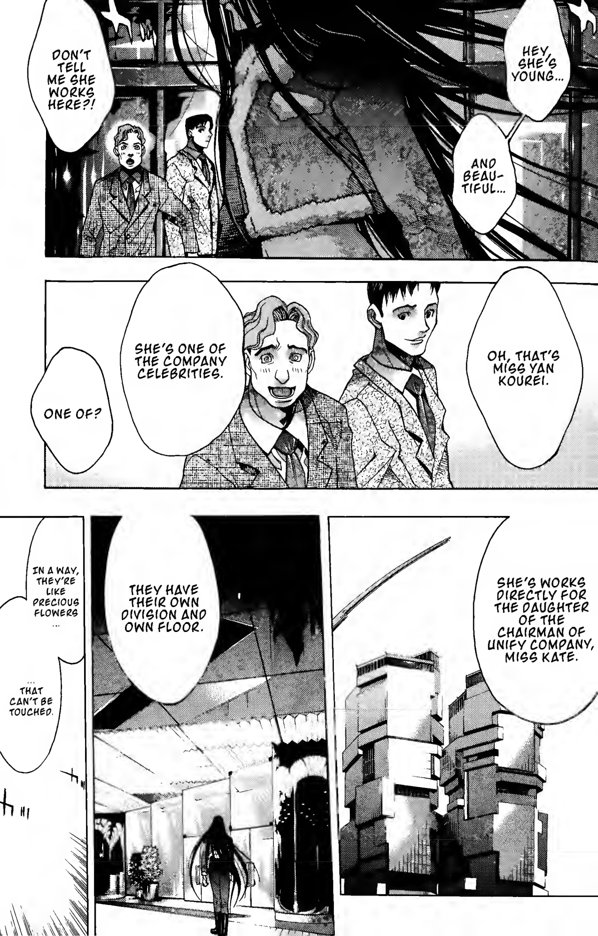

HER APPETITE IS A DIFFERENT MATTER, THOUGH...
YOU DEFINITELY DON'T SEEM VERY CHEERFUL TODAY.
YES, I'D LIKE ANOTHER MISO RAMEN!
YOU'RE STILL GOING TO EAT?!
NMMMHHH...
ズズー
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I WAS ABLE TO GET CLOSE TO PERFECTION...
BOTH TIMES SHE SLIPPED THROUGH MY FINGERS...
ズルー
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?!

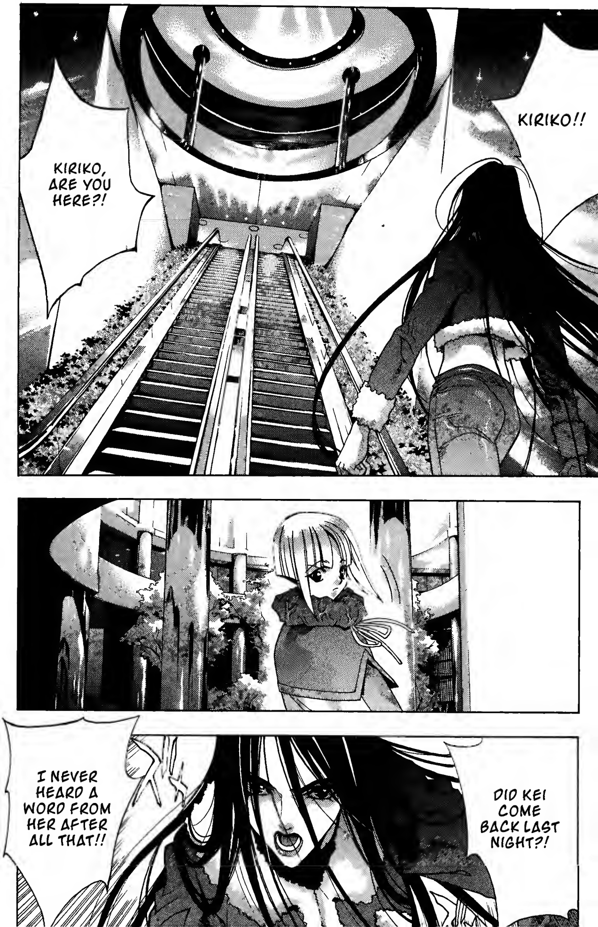

AM I...
... EVER GOING TO SEE HER AGAIN...?

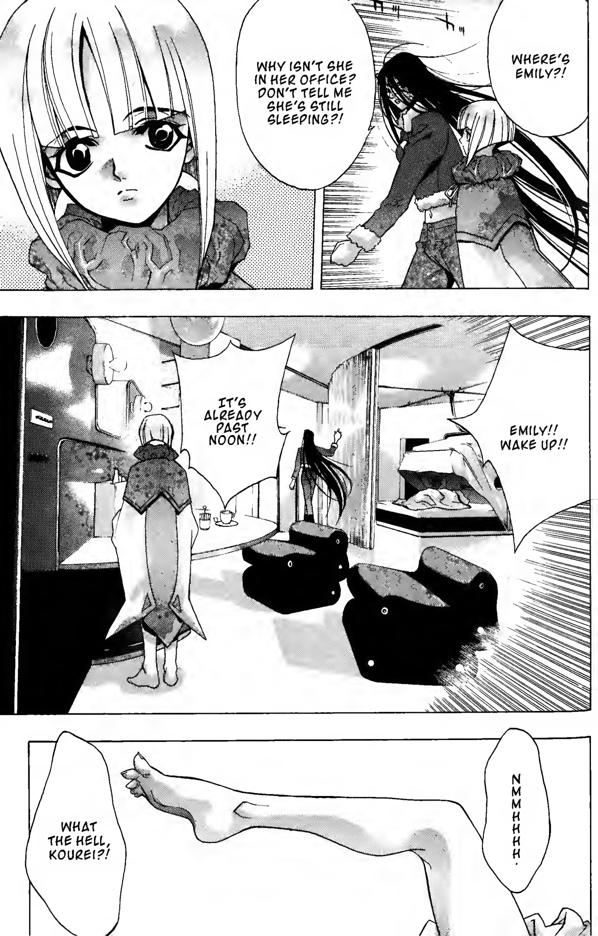

WHAT ARE YOU SPACING OUT FOR? WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE FOR OUR TWO O'CLOCK MEETING.
OH... JUST THINKING... EVERY TIME I COME TO YOUR COMPANY, IT INTIMIDATES ME.
AFTER ALL, IT'S THE BIGGEST CORPORATION IN NOIMON, AND IT SUPPORTS THE CORE OF THE DEEP SEA NINE CITIES ASSOCIATION.
UNIFY COMPANY, DEVELOPER AND OVERSEES OF THE ID LIMITER SYSTEM.

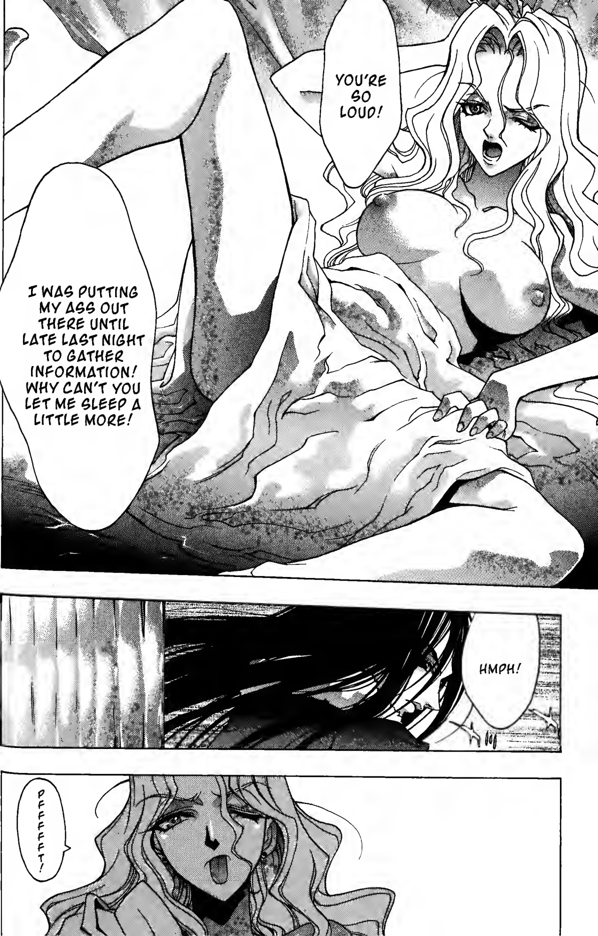

HARDLY SOMETHING TO BE SURPRISED ABOUT ANYMORE, IS IT? C'MON, LET'S GO.
!
HEY?!
THAT'S AN OLD MODEL GAUSHO FROM PICARD MOTORS, YOU SEE THAT!
WOWWWW. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN ONE DRIVEN. IS IT A FULLY RESTORED MODEL?
OH BOY! THERE YOU GO, YOU RETRO CAR FREAK. ARE OLD CARS REALLY THAT GREAT?
OH OF COURSE! WHAT KIND OF MILLIONAIRE IS DRIVING THAT THING!?

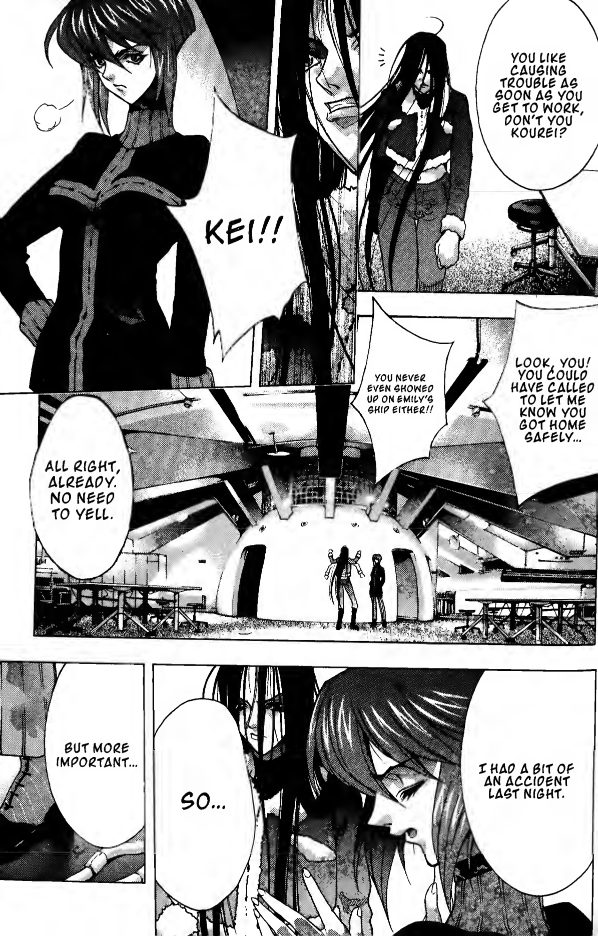


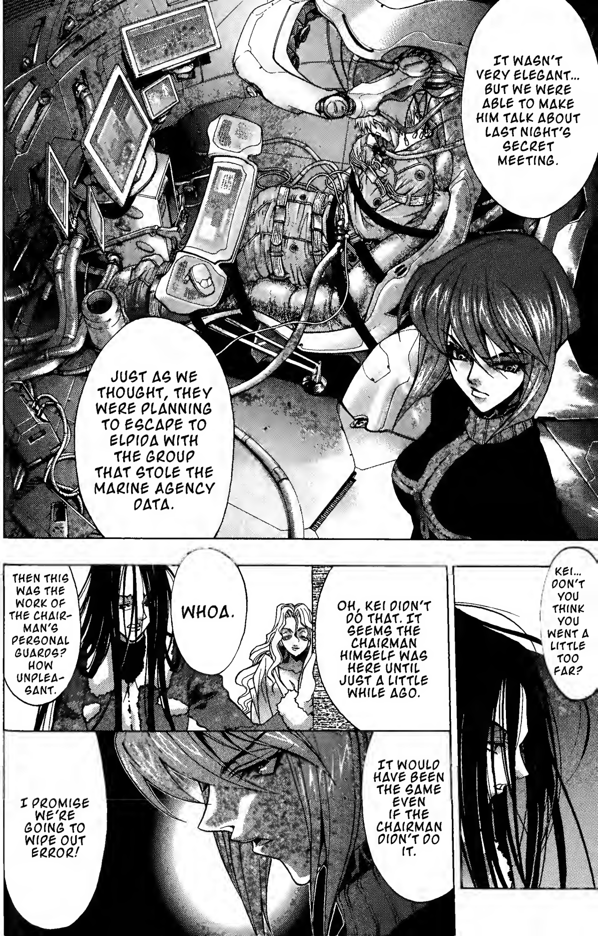

HEY, SHE'S YOUNG...
AND BEAUTIFUL...
DON'T TELL ME SHE WORKS HERE?!
OH, THAT'S MISS YAN KOUREI.
SHE'S ONE OF THE COMPANY CELEBRITIES.
ONE OF?
SHE'S WORKS DIRECTLY FOR THE DAUGHTER OF THE CHAIRMAN OF UNIFY COMPANY, MISS KATE.
THEY HAVE THEIR OWN DIVISION AND OWN FLOOR.
IN A WAY, THEY'RE LIKE PRECIOUS FLOWERS ...
... THAT CAN'T BE TOUCHED.

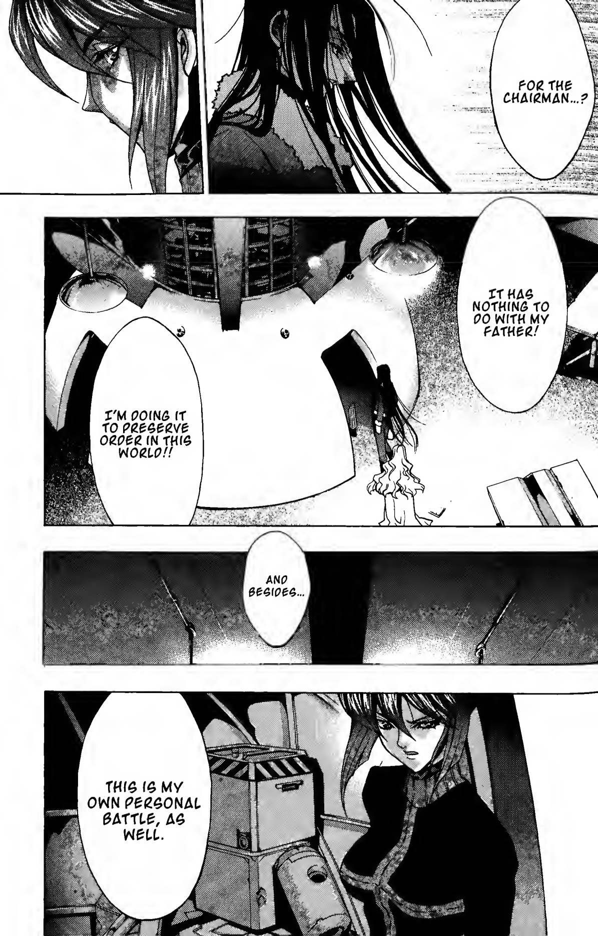

KIRIKO!!
KIRIKO, ARE YOU HERE?!
DID KEI COME BACK LAST NIGHT?!
I NEVER HEARD A WORD FROM HER AFTER ALL THAT!!

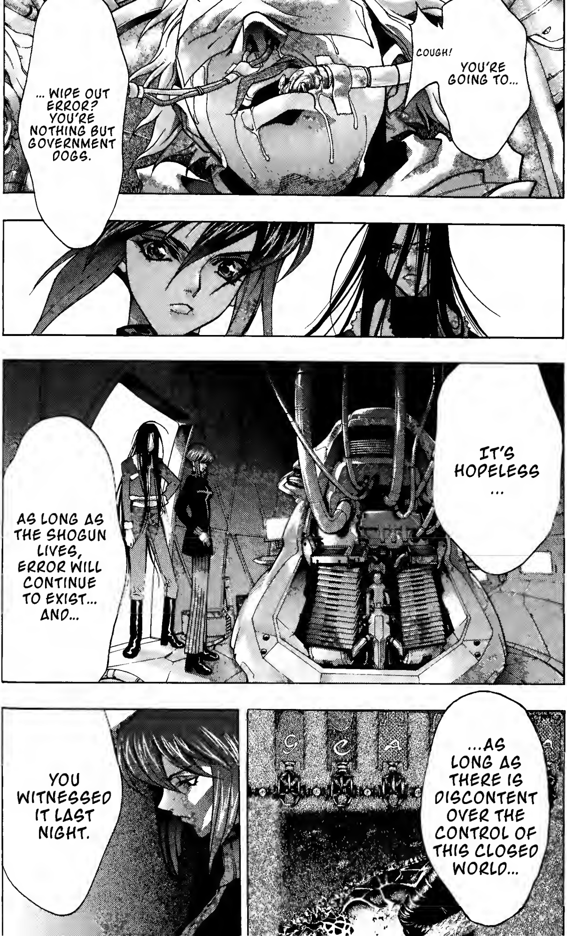

WHERE'S EMILY?!
WHY ISN'T SHE IN HER OFFICE? DON'T TELL ME SHE'S STILL SLEEPING?!
EMILY!! WAKE UP!!
IT'S ALREADY PAST NOON!!
NMMHHHH.
WHAT THE HELL, KOUREI?!

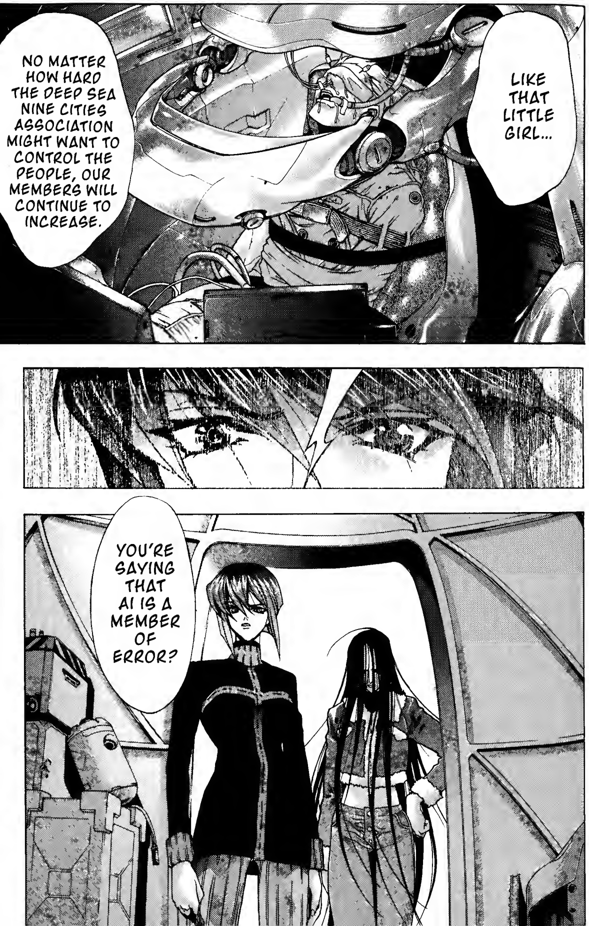

YOU'RE SO LOUD!
I WAS PUTTING MY ASS OUT THERE UNTIL LATE LAST NIGHT TO GATHER INFORMATION! WHY CAN'T YOU LET ME SLEEP A LITTLE MORE!
HMPH!
PFFFFFT!

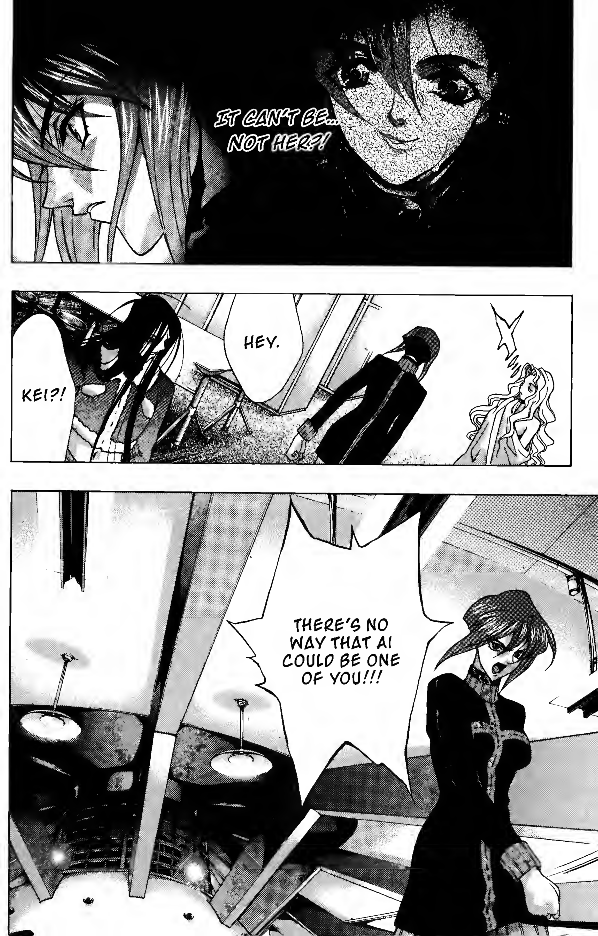

YOU LIKE CAUSING TROUBLE AS SOON AS YOU GET TO WORK, DON'T YOU KOUREI?
KEI!!
LOOK, YOU! YOU COULD HAVE CALLED TO LET ME KNOW YOU GOT HOME SAFELY...
YOU NEVER EVEN SHOWED UP ON EMILY'S SHIP EITHER!!
ALL RIGHT, ALREADY. NO NEED TO YELL.
I HAD A BIT OF AN ACCIDENT LAST NIGHT.
SO...
BUT MORE IMPORTANT...

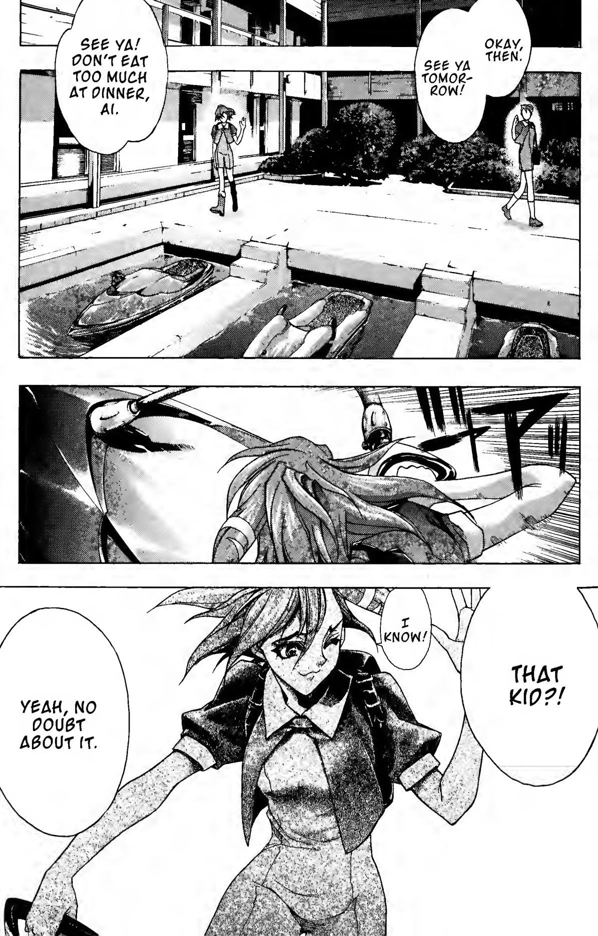

IT WASN'T VERY ELEGANT... BUT WE WERE ABLE TO MAKE HIM TALK ABOUT LAST NIGHT'S SECRET MEETING.
JUST AS WE THOUGHT, THEY WERE PLANNING TO ESCAPE TO ELPIDA WITH THE GROUP THAT STOLE THE MARINE AGENCY DATA.
KEI... DON'T YOU THINK YOU WENT A LITTLE TOO FAR?
OH, KEI DIDN'T DO THAT. IT SEEMS THE CHAIRMAN HIMSELF WAS HERE UNTIL JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
WHOA.
THEN THIS WAS THE WORK OF THE CHAIRMAN'S PERSONAL GUARDS? HOW UNPLEASANT.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE SAME EVEN IF THE CHAIRMAN DIDN'T DO IT.
I PROMISE WE'RE GOING TO WIPE OUT ERROR!

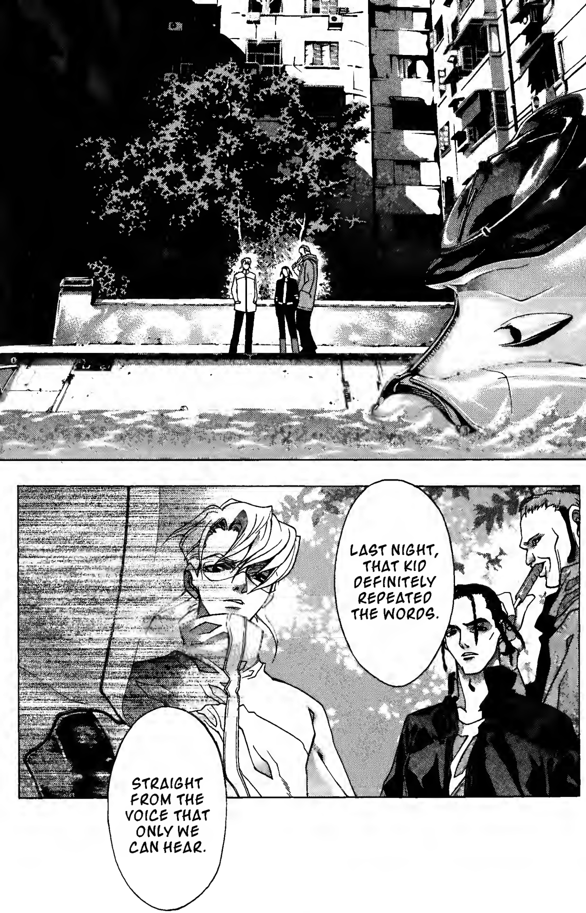

FOR THE CHAIRMAN...?
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MY FATHER!
I'M DOING IT TO PRESERVE ORDER IN THIS WORLD!!
AND BESIDES...
THIS IS MY OWN PERSONAL BATTLE, AS WELL.

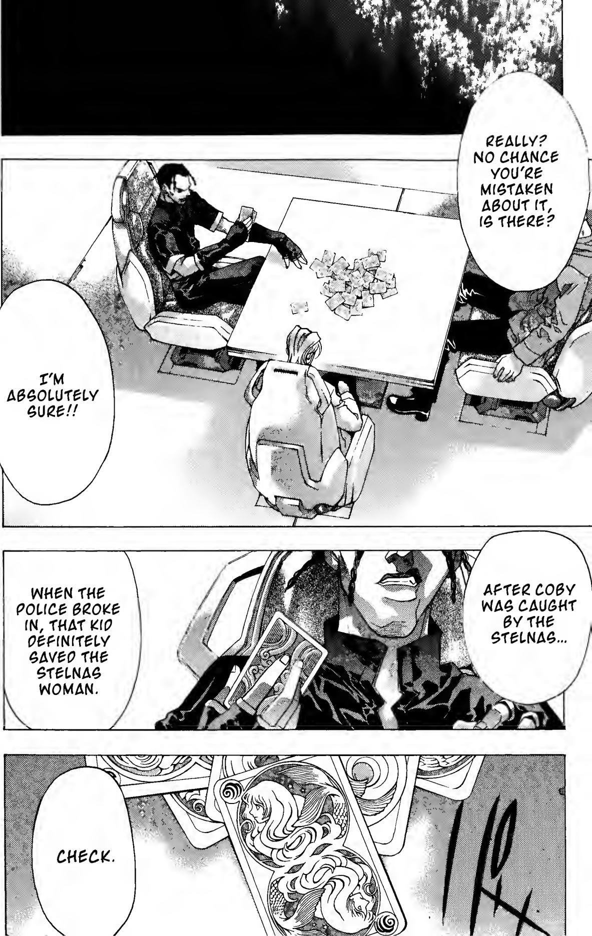

COUGH!
YOU'RE GOING TO...
... WIPE OUT ERROR? YOU'RE NOTHING BUT GOVERNMENT DOGS.
IT'S HOPELESS ...
AS LONG AS THE SHOGUN LIVES, ERROR WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST... AND...
...AS LONG AS THERE IS DISCONTENT OVER THE CONTROL OF THIS CLOSED WORLD...
YOU WITNESSED IT LAST NIGHT.

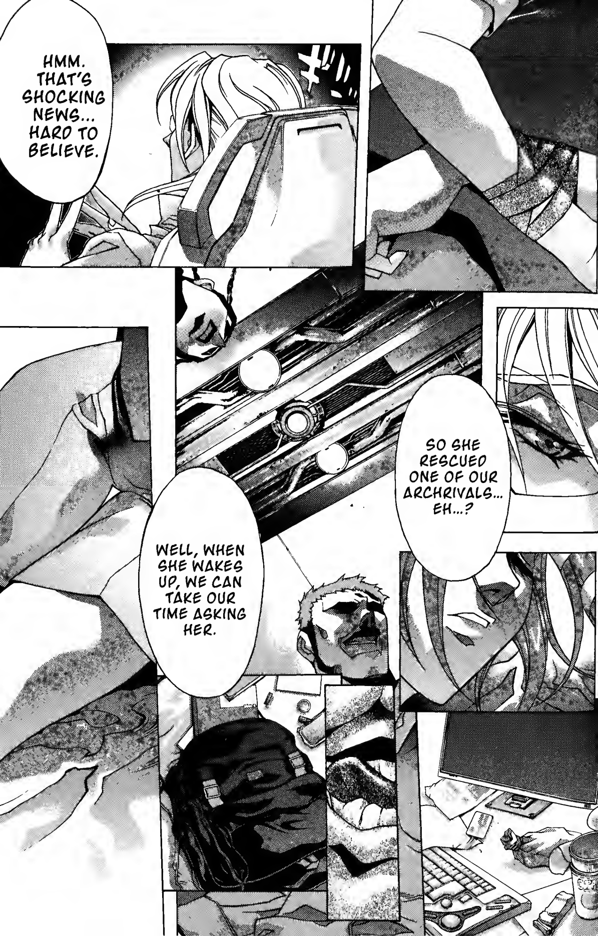

NO MATTER HOW HARD THE DEEP SEA NINE CITIES ASSOCIATION MIGHT WANT TO CONTROL THE PEOPLE, OUR MEMBERS WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE.
LIKE THAT LITTLE GIRL...
YOU'RE SAYING THAT AI IS A MEMBER OF ERROR?


IT CAN'T BE... NOT HER?!
HEY.
KEI?!
THERE'S NO WAY THAT AI COULD BE ONE OF YOU!!!


OKAY, THEN.
SEE YA TOMORROW!
SEE YA! DON'T EAT TOO MUCH AT DINNER, AI.
THAT KID?!
I KNOW!
YEAH, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

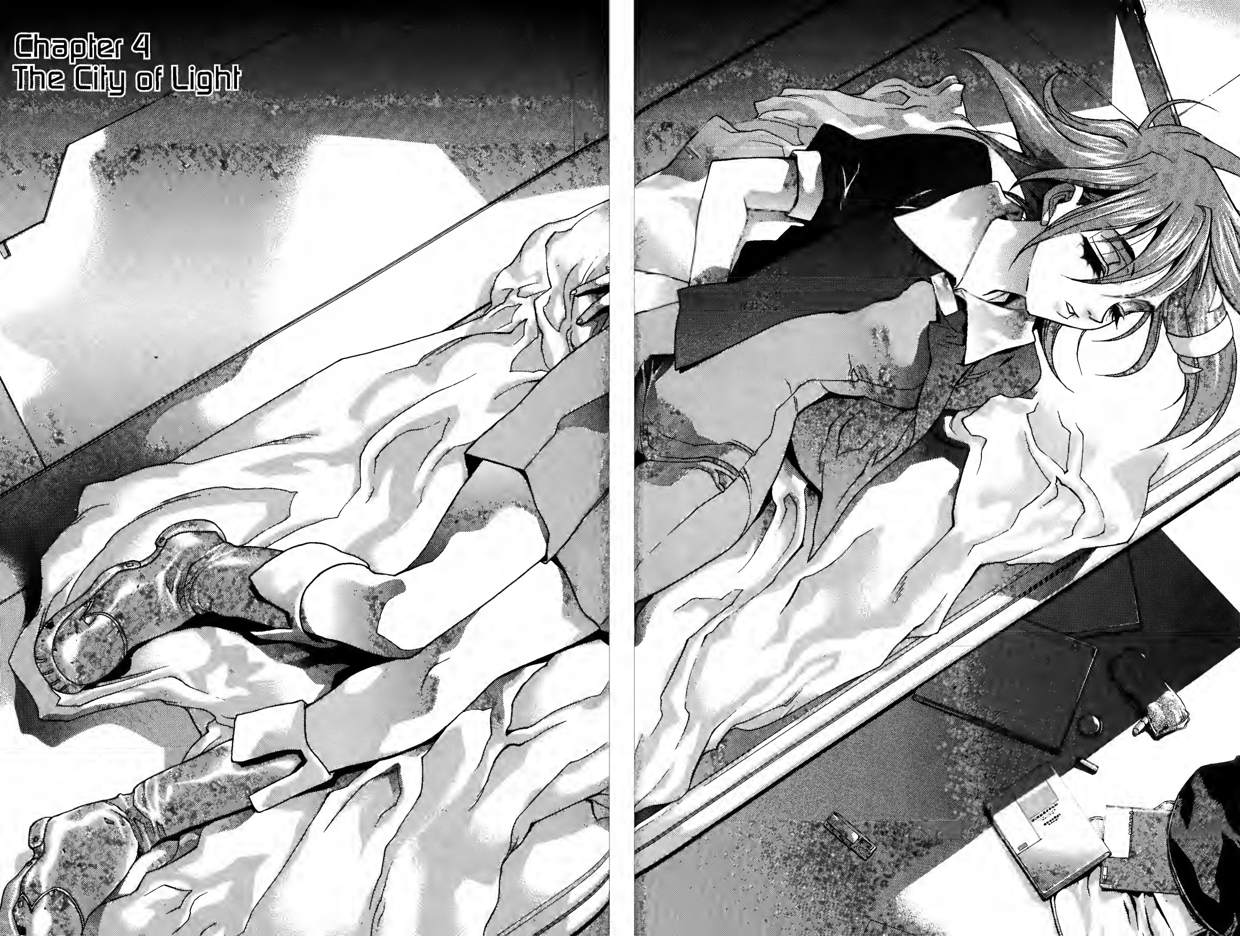

LAST NIGHT, THAT KID DEFINITELY REPEATED THE WORDS.
STRAIGHT FROM THE VOICE THAT ONLY WE CAN HEAR.

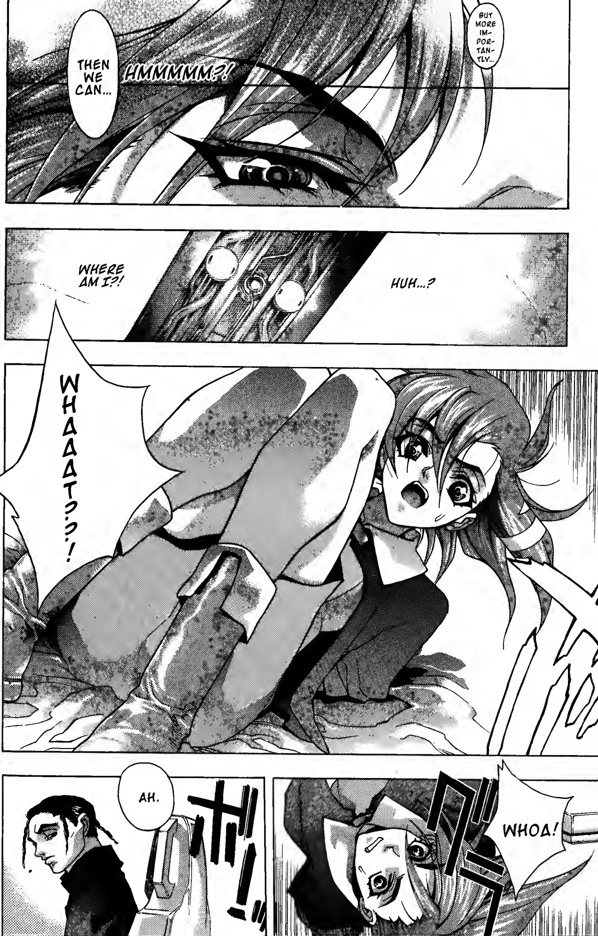

REALLY? NO CHANCE YOU'RE MISTAKEN ABOUT IT, IS THERE?
I'M ABSOLUTELY SURE!!
AFTER COBY WAS CAUGHT BY THE STELNAS...
WHEN THE POLICE BROKE IN, THAT KID DEFINITELY SAVED THE STELNAS WOMAN.
CHECK.

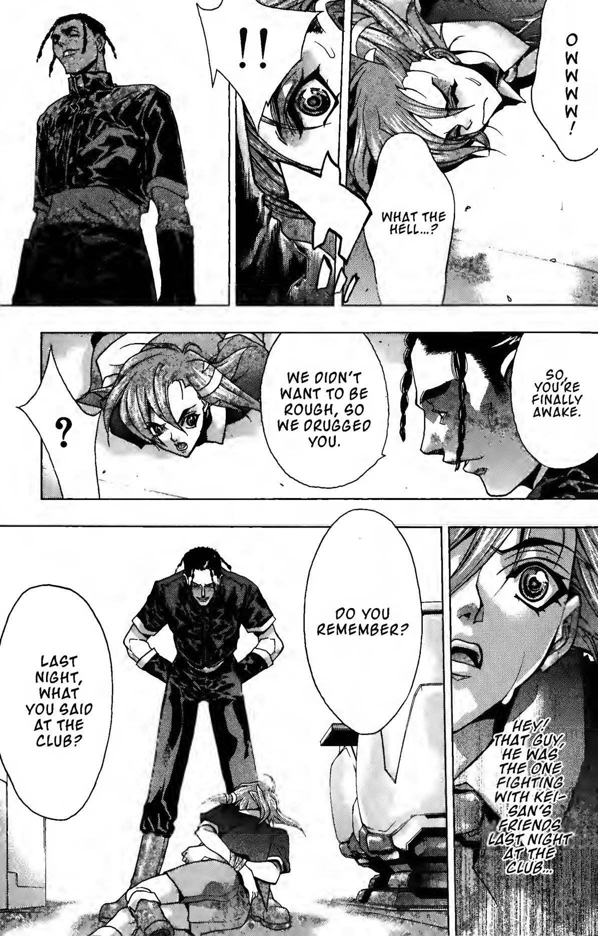

HMM. THAT'S SHOCKING NEWS... HARD TO BELIEVE.
SO SHE RESCUED ONE OF OUR ARCHRIVALS... EH...?
WELL, WHEN SHE WAKES UP, WE CAN TAKE OUR TIME ASKING HER.

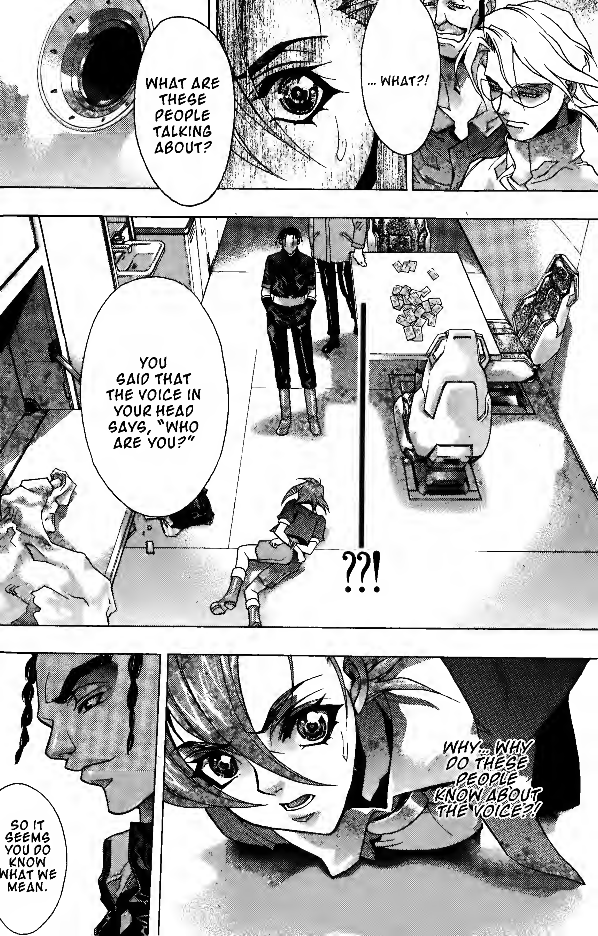
Chapter 4

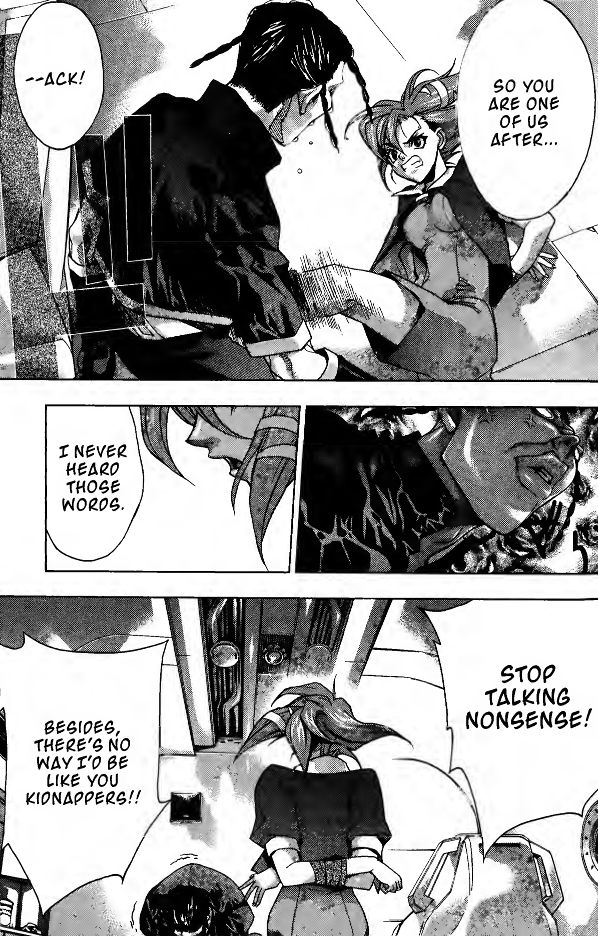
The City of Light

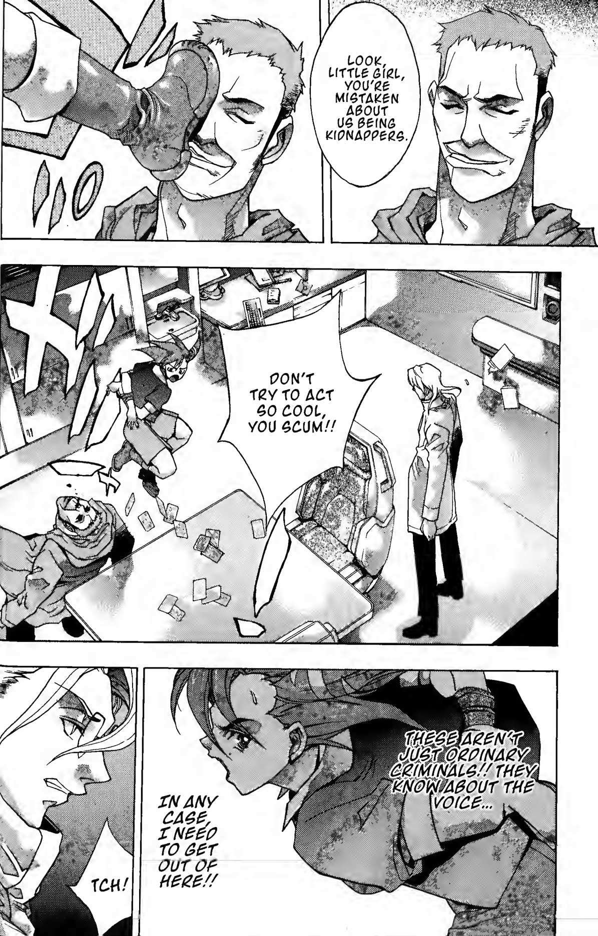


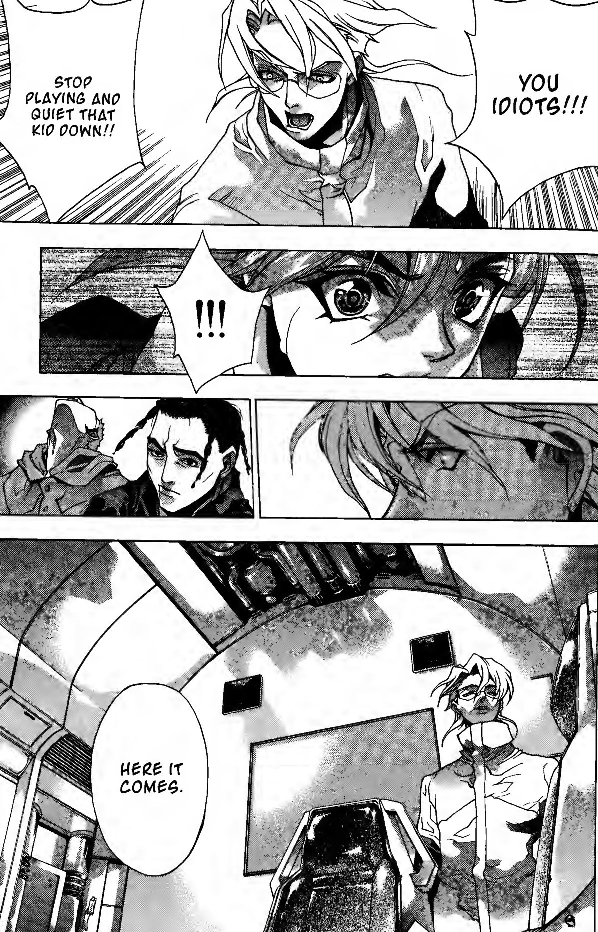

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY...
HMMMMM?!
THEN WE CAN...
HUH...?
WHERE AM I?!
WHAAAT??!
WHOA!
AH.

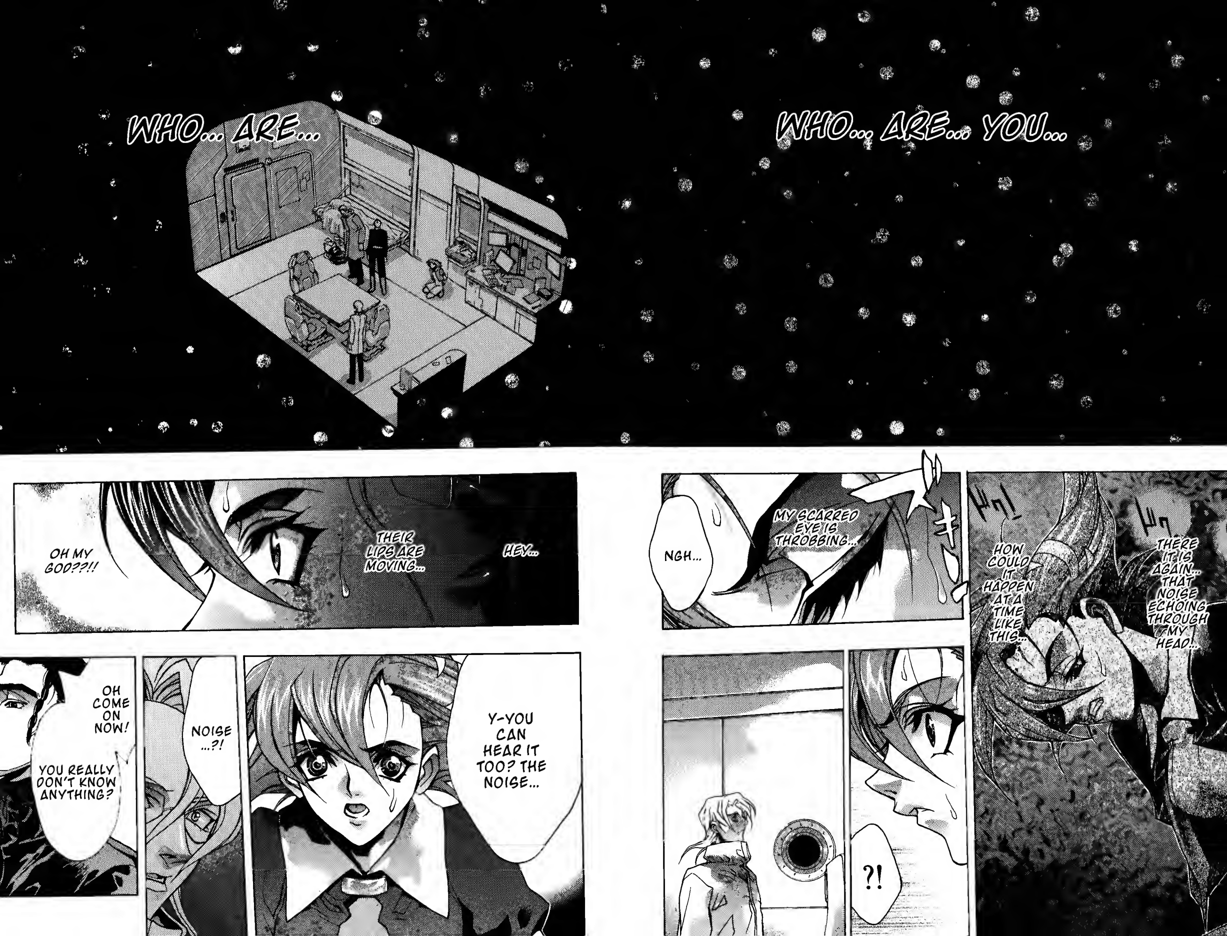

OWWWW!
WHAT THE HELL...?
!!
SO, YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE.
WE DIDN'T WANT TO BE ROUGH, SO WE DRUGGED YOU.
?
HEY! THAT GUY, HE WAS THE ONE FIGHTING WITH KEI-SAN'S FRIENDS LAST NIGHT AT THE CLUB...
DO YOU REMEMBER?
LAST NIGHT, WHAT YOU SAID AT THE CLUB?

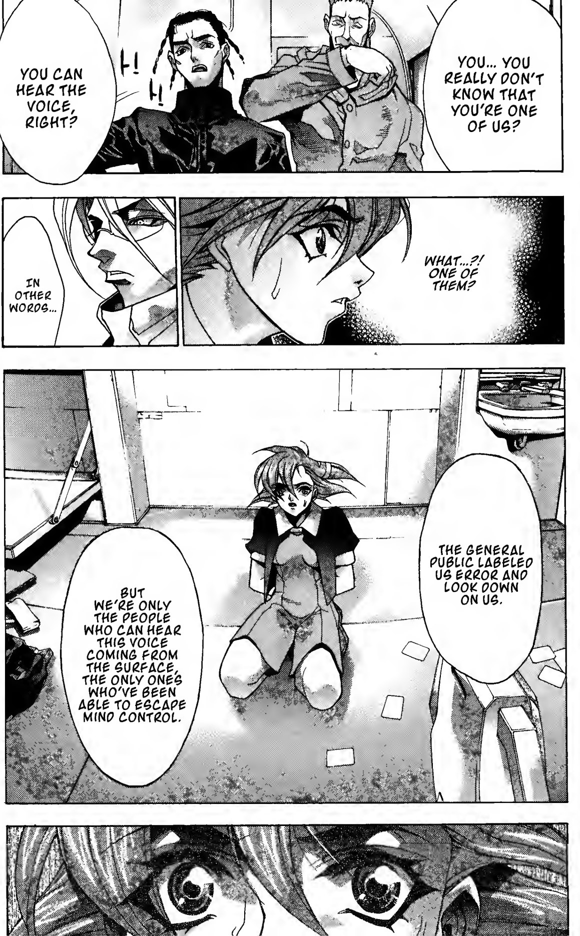

... WHAT?!
WHAT ARE THESE PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT?
YOU SAID THAT THE VOICE IN YOUR HEAD SAYS, "WHO ARE YOU?"
??!
WHY... WHY DO THESE PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THE VOICE?!
SO IT SEEMS YOU DO KNOW WHAT WE MEAN.

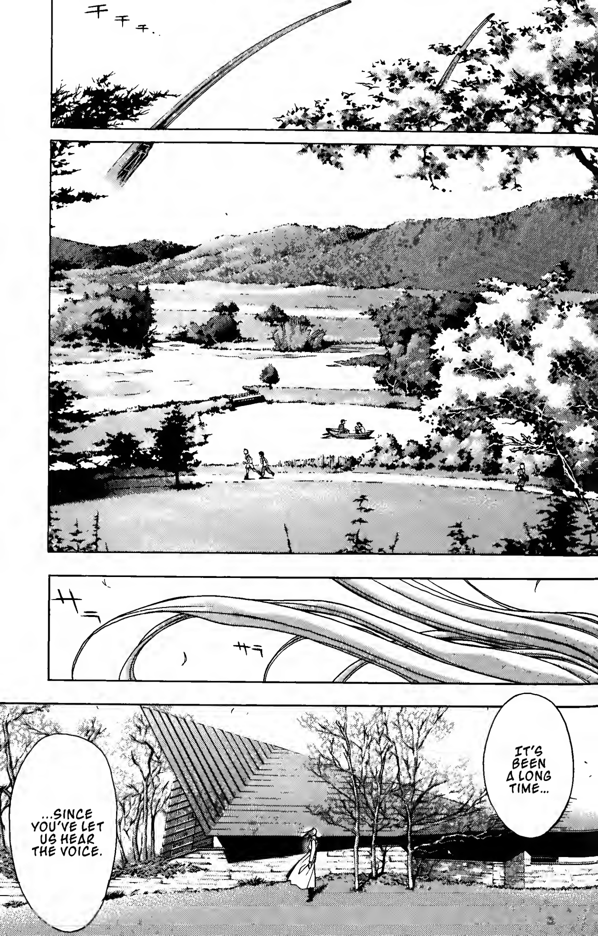

SO YOU ARE ONE OF US AFTER...
--ACK!
I NEVER HEARD THOSE WORDS.
STOP TALKING NONSENSE!
BESIDES, THERE'S NO WAY I'D BE LIKE YOU KIDNAPPERS!!

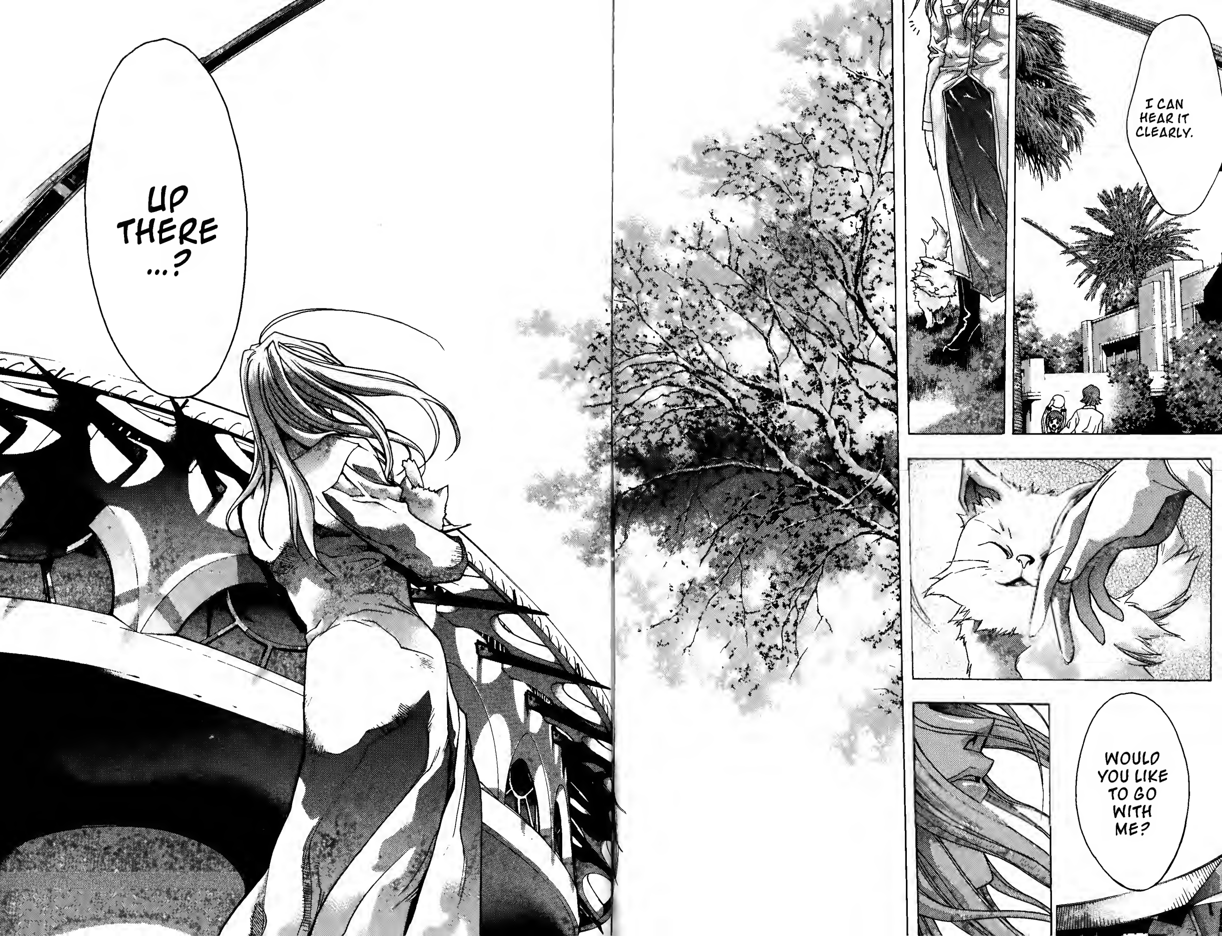

LOOK, LITTLE GIRL, YOU'RE MISTAKEN ABOUT US BEING KIDNAPPERS.
DON'T TRY TO ACT SO COOL, YOU SCUM!!
THESE AREN'T JUST ORDINARY CRIMINALS!! THEY KNOW ABOUT THE VOICE...
IN ANY CASE, I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE!!
TCH!

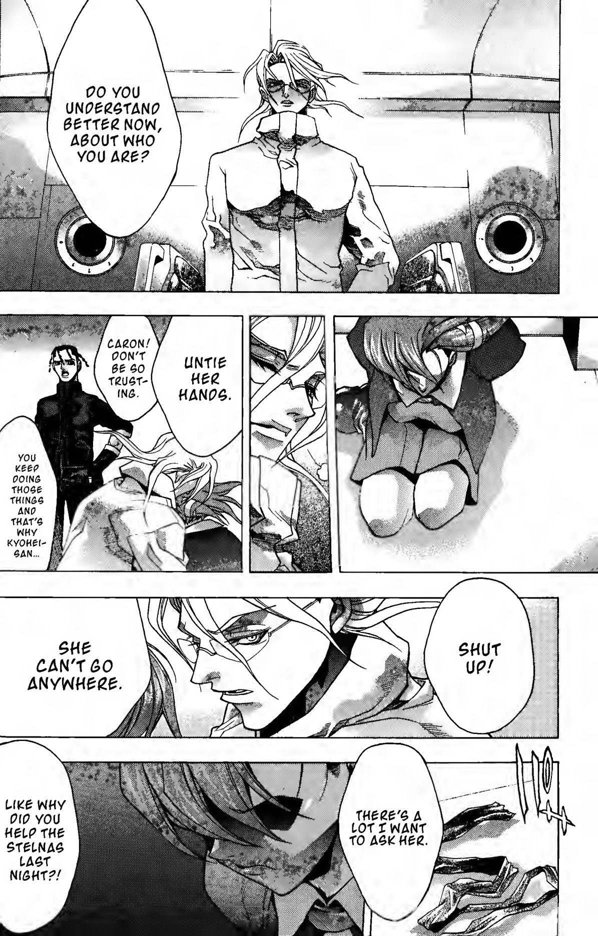

YOU IDIOTS!!!
STOP PLAYING AND QUIET THAT KID DOWN!!
!!!
HERE IT COMES.

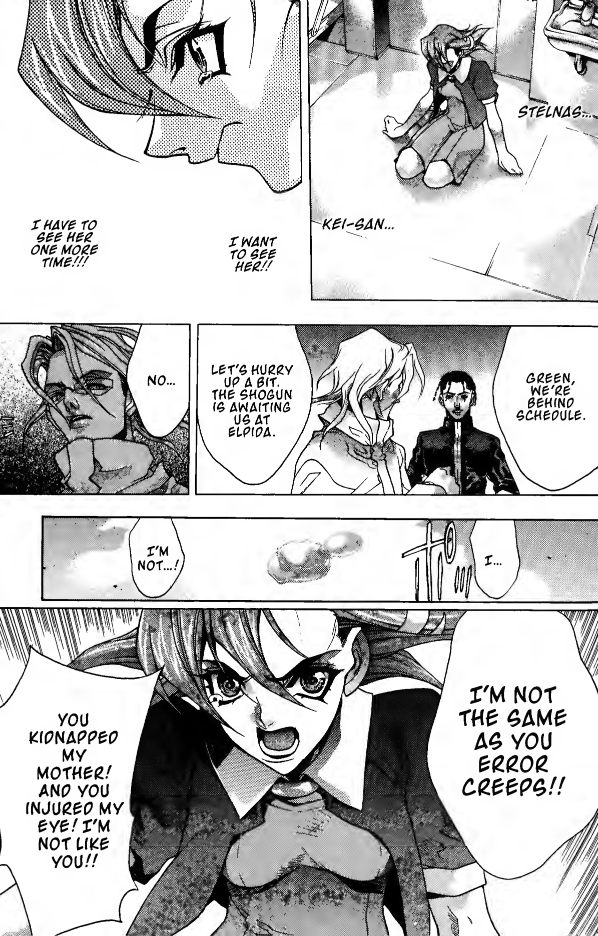

WHO... ARE... YOU...
WHO... ARE...
THERE IT IS AGAIN... THAT NOISE ECHOING THROUGH MY HEAD...!
HOW COULD IT HAPPEN AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
MY SCARRED EYE IS THROBBING...
NGH...
?!
HEY...
THEIR LIPS ARE MOVING...
OH MY GOD??!!
Y-YOU CAN HEAR IT TOO? THE NOISE...
NOISE ...?!
OH COME ON NOW!
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING?

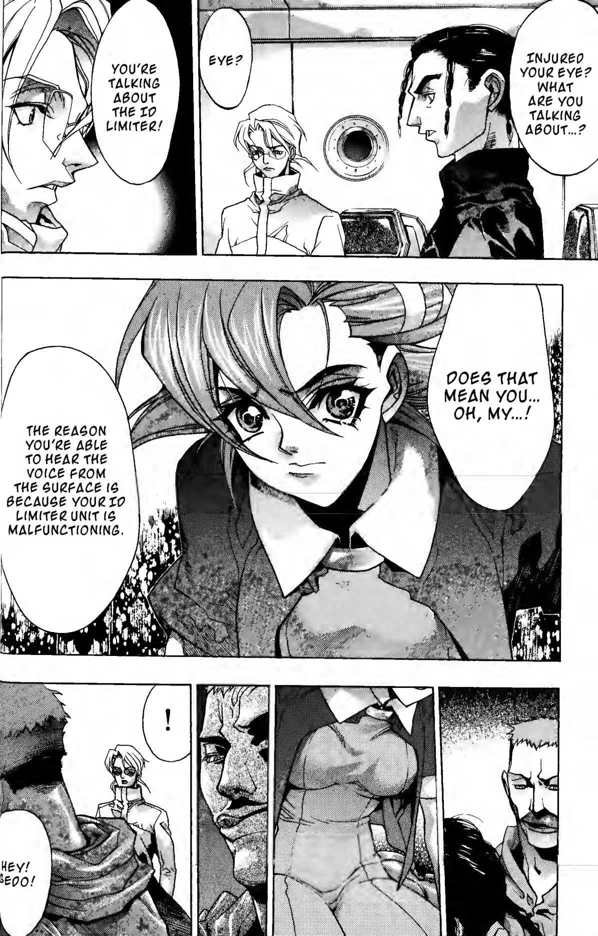

YOU... YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW THAT YOU'RE ONE OF US?
!!
YOU CAN HEAR THE VOICE, RIGHT?
WHAT...?! ONE OF THEM?
IN OTHER WORDS...
THE GENERAL PUBLIC LABELED US ERROR AND LOOK DOWN ON US.
BUT WE'RE ONLY THE PEOPLE WHO CAN HEAR THIS VOICE COMING FROM THE SURFACE, THE ONLY ONE'S WHO'VE BEEN ABLE TO ESCAPE MIND CONTROL.

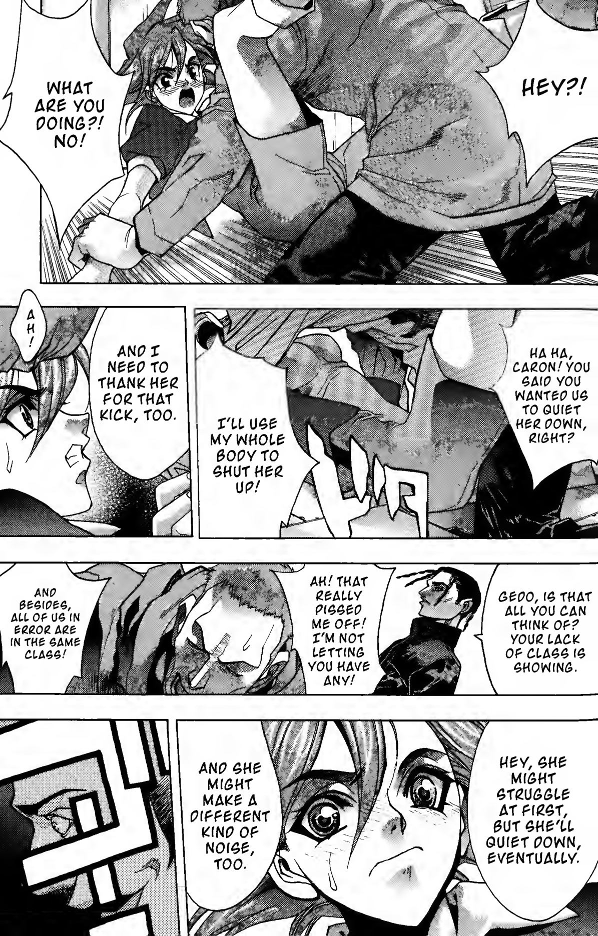

チチチ..
サラ
サラ
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...
...SINCE YOU'VE LET US HEAR THE VOICE.

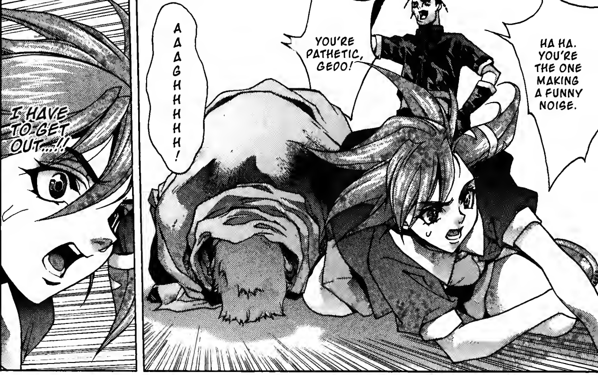

I CAN HEAR IT CLEARLY.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO WITH ME?
UP THERE ...?

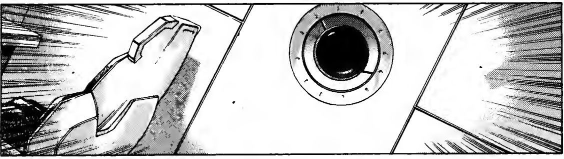

DO YOU UNDERSTAND BETTER NOW, ABOUT WHO YOU ARE?
UNTIE HER HANDS.
CARON! DON'T BE SO TRUSTING.
YOU KEEP DOING THOSE THINGS AND THAT'S WHY KYOHEI-SAN...
SHUT UP!
SHE CAN'T GO ANYWHERE.
THERE'S A LOT I WANT TO ASK HER.
LIKE WHY DID YOU HELP THE STELNAS LAST NIGHT?!

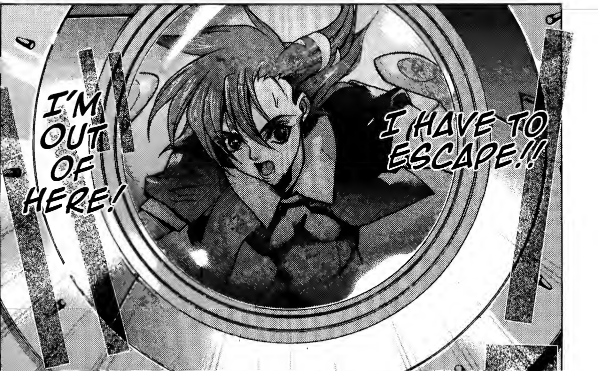

STELNAS...
KEI-SAN...
I WANT TO SEE HER!!
I HAVE TO SEE HER ONE MORE TIME!!!
GREEN, WE'RE BEHIND SCHEDULE.
LET'S HURRY UP A BIT. THE SHOGUN IS AWAITING US AT ELPIDA.
NO...
I...
I'M NOT...!
I'M NOT THE SAME AS YOU ERROR CREEPS!!
YOU KIDNAPPED MY MOTHER! AND YOU INJURED MY EYE! I'M NOT LIKE YOU!!

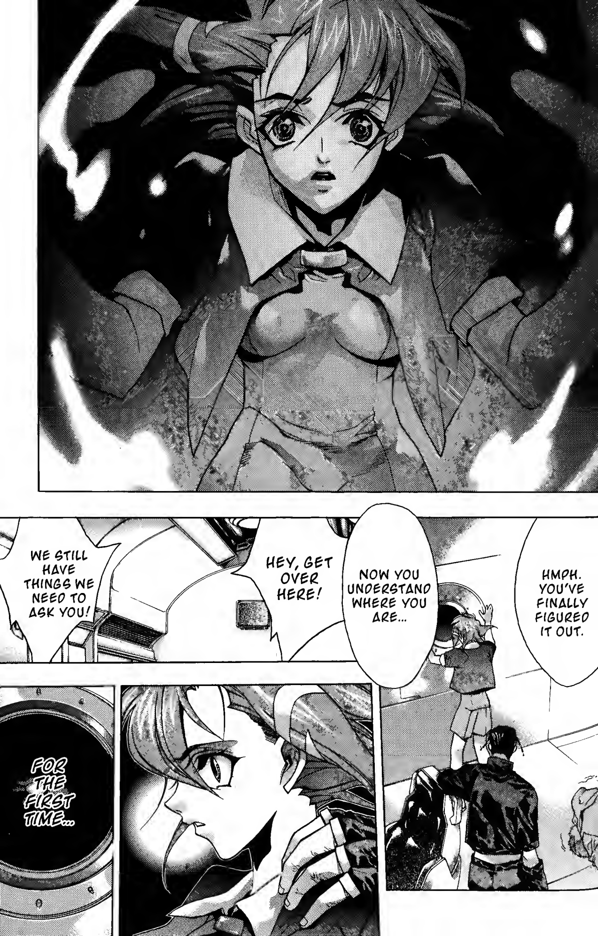

INJURED YOUR EYE? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?
EYE?
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE ID LIMITER!
DOES THAT MEAN YOU... OH, MY...!
THE REASON YOU'RE ABLE TO HEAR THE VOICE FROM THE SURFACE IS BECAUSE YOUR ID LIMITER UNIT IS MALFUNCTIONING.
!
HEY! EDO!

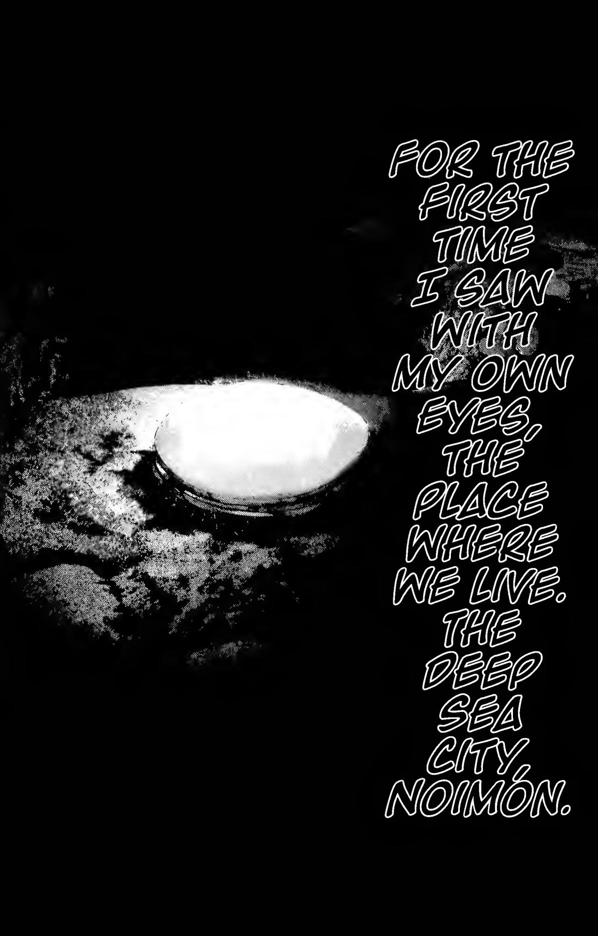

HEY?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! NO!
HA HA, CARON! YOU SAID YOU WANTED US TO QUIET HER DOWN, RIGHT?
I'LL USE MY WHOLE BODY TO SHUT HER UP!
AND I NEED TO THANK HER FOR THAT KICK, TOO.
AH!
GEDO, IS THAT ALL YOU CAN THINK OF? YOUR LACK OF CLASS IS SHOWING.
AH! THAT REALLY PISSED ME OFF! I'M NOT LETTING YOU HAVE ANY!
AND BESIDES, ALL OF US IN ERROR ARE IN THE SAME CLASS!
HEY, SHE MIGHT STRUGGLE AT FIRST, BUT SHE'LL QUIET DOWN, EVENTUALLY.
AND SHE MIGHT MAKE A DIFFERENT KIND OF NOISE, TOO.


HA HA. YOU'RE THE ONE MAKING A FUNNY NOISE.
YOU'RE PATHETIC, GEDO!
AAAGHHHHHH!
I HAVE TO GET OUT...!!

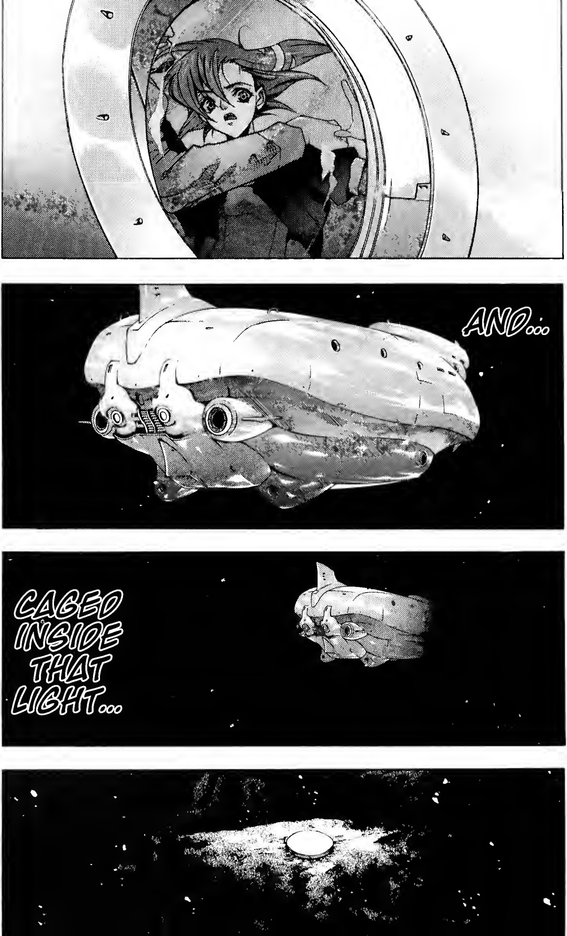


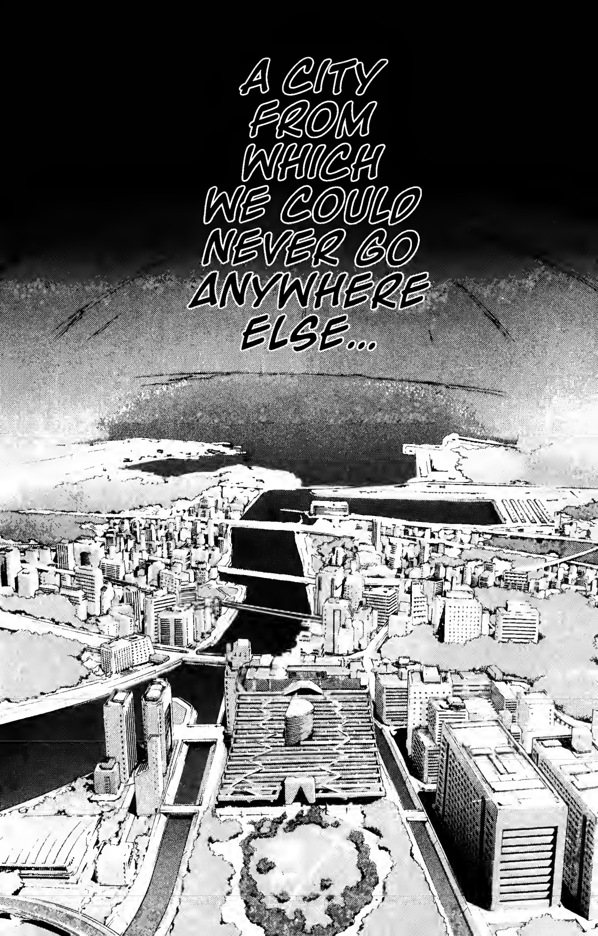

I HAVE TO ESCAPE!!
I'M OUT OF HERE!

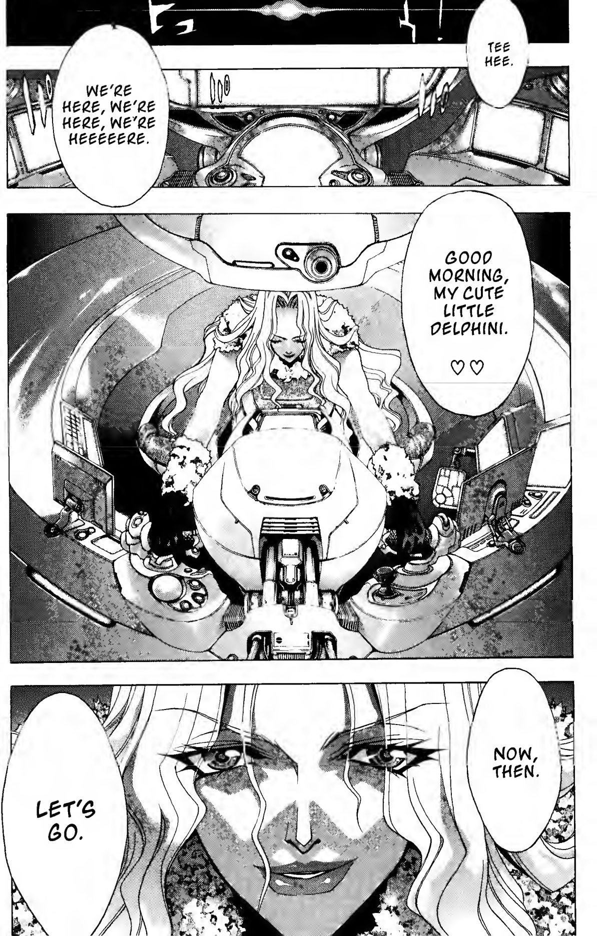

HMPH. YOU'VE FINALLY FIGURED IT OUT.
NOW YOU UNDERSTAND WHERE YOU ARE...
HEY, GET OVER HERE!
WE STILL HAVE THINGS WE NEED TO ASK YOU!
FOR THE FIRST TIME...

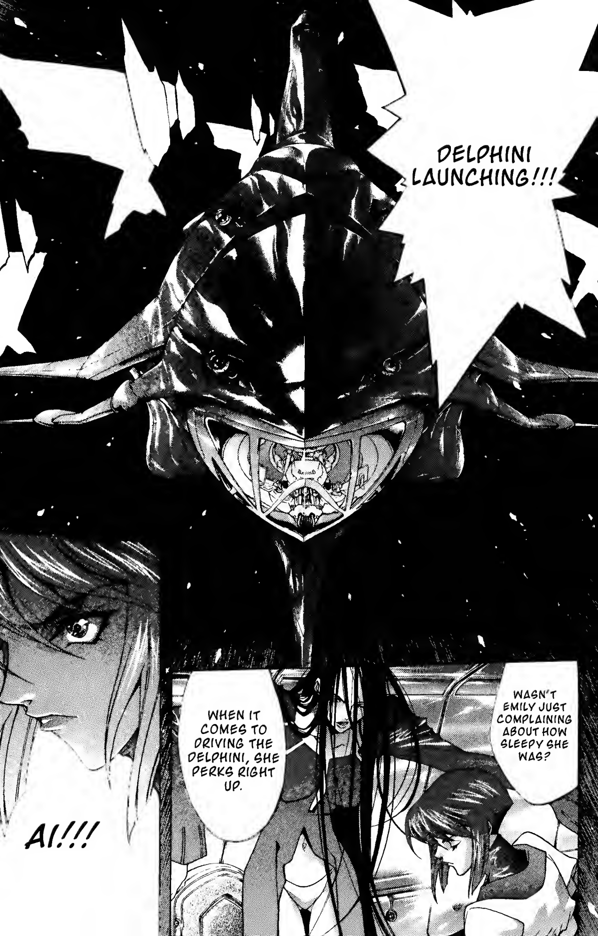

FOR THE FIRST TIME I SAW WITH MY OWN EYES, THE PLACE WHERE WE LIVE.
THE DEEP SEA CITY, NOIMÓN.

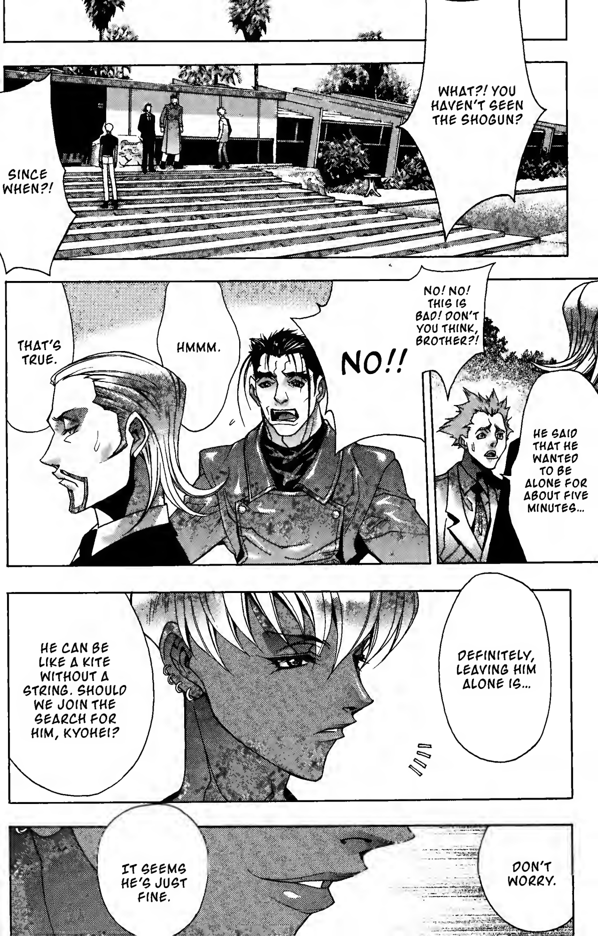
MANKIND'S LAST HOPE...

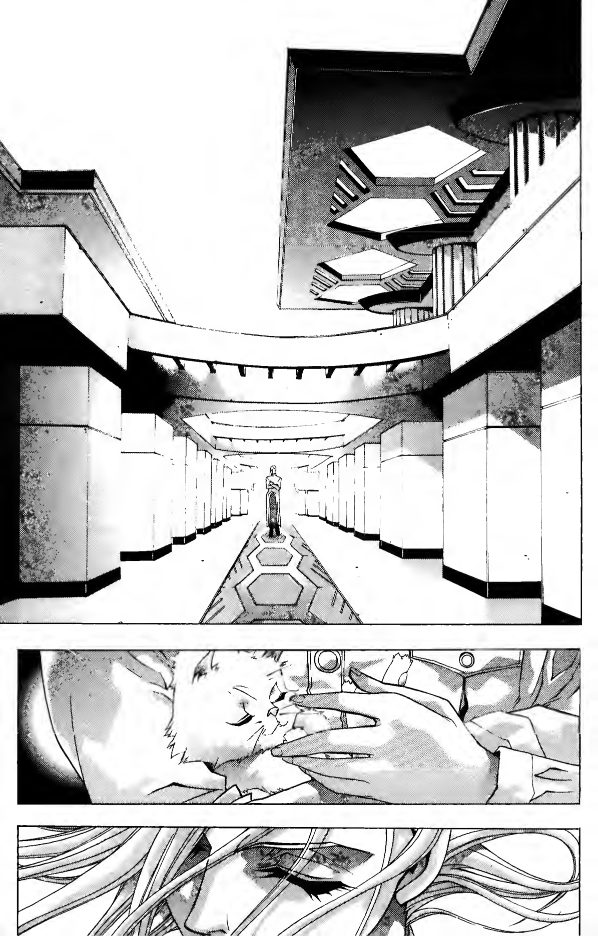

AND...
CAGED INSIDE THAT LIGHT...

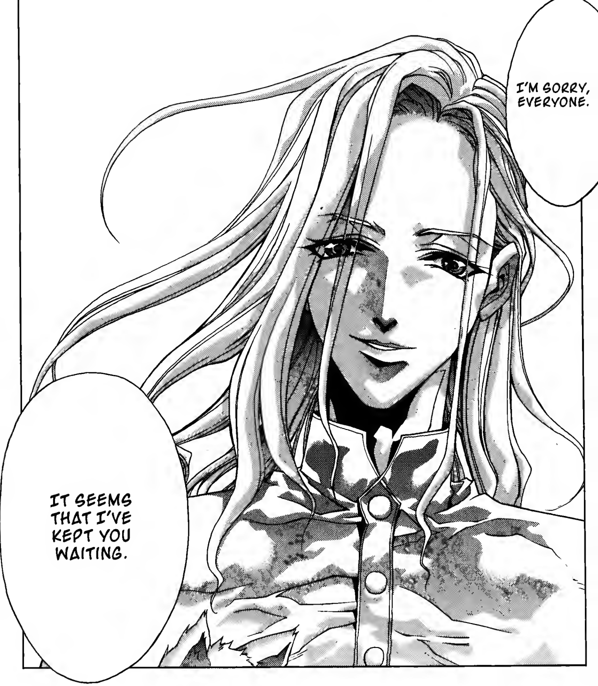

A CITY FROM WHICH WE COULD NEVER GO ANYWHERE ELSE...

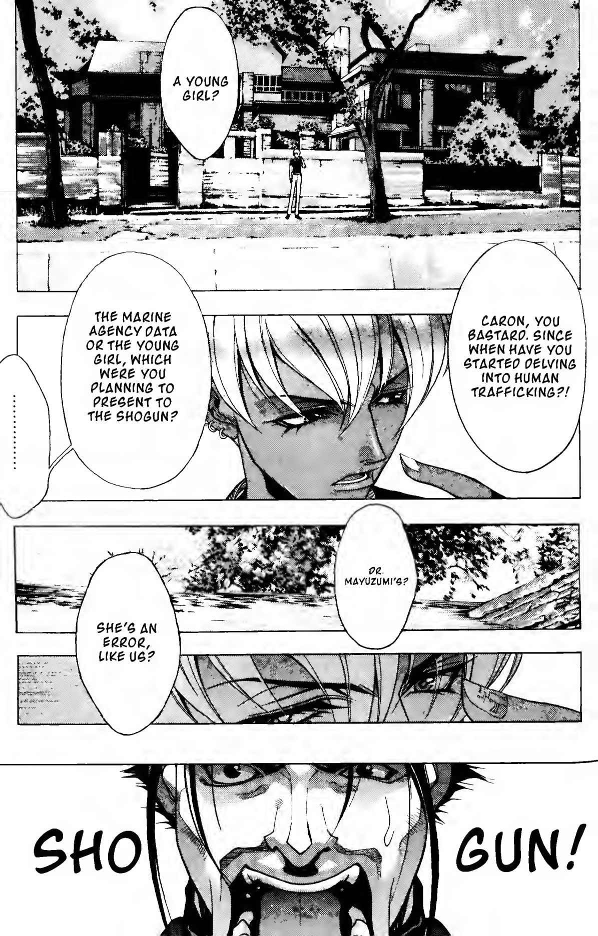

TEE HEE.
WE'RE HERE, WE'RE HERE, WE'RE HEEEEERE.
GOOD MORNING, MY CUTE LITTLE DELPHINI. ♡♡
NOW, THEN.
LET'S GO.

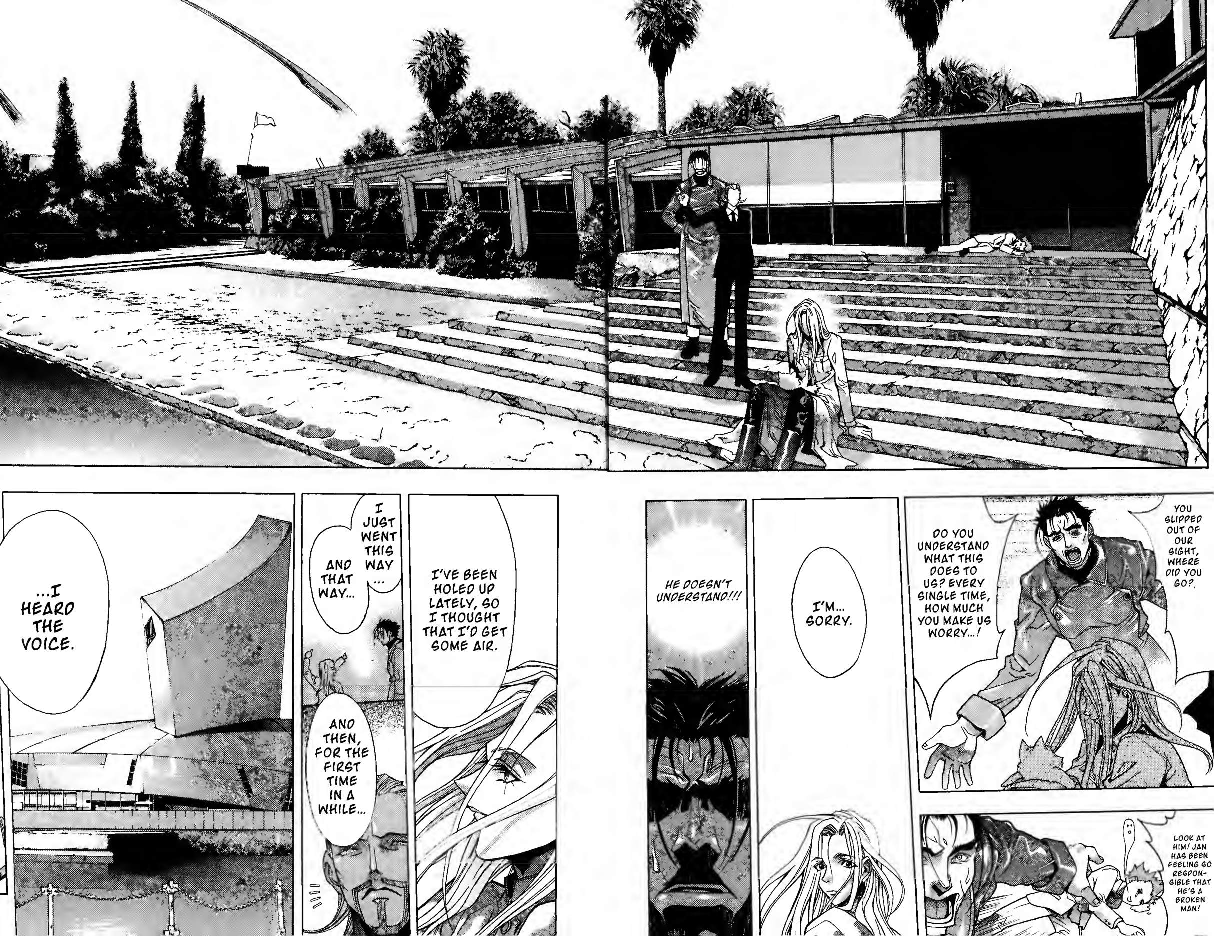

DELPHINI LAUNCHING!!!
WASN'T EMILY JUST COMPLAINING ABOUT HOW SLEEPY SHE WAS?
WHEN IT COMES TO DRIVING THE DELPHINI, SHE PERKS RIGHT UP.
AI!!!

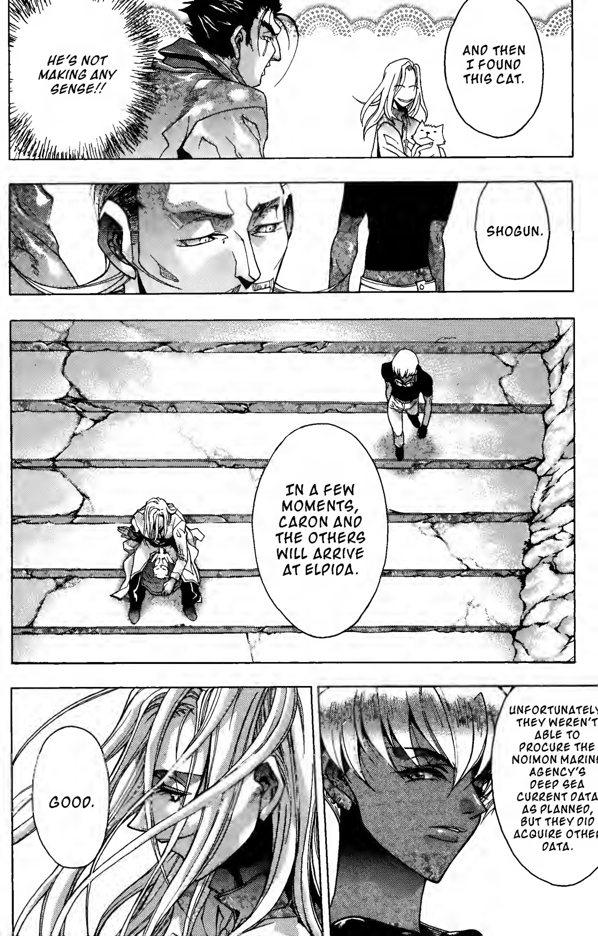

WHAT?! YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE SHOGUN?
SINCE WHEN?!
NO! NO! THIS IS BAD! DON'T YOU THINK, BROTHER?!
HE SAID THAT HE WANTED TO BE ALONE FOR ABOUT FIVE MINUTES...
NO!!
HMMM.
THAT'S TRUE.
DEFINITELY, LEAVING HIM ALONE IS...
HE CAN BE LIKE A KITE WITHOUT A STRING. SHOULD WE JOIN THE SEARCH FOR HIM, KYOHEI?
DON'T WORRY.
IT SEEMS HE'S JUST FINE.

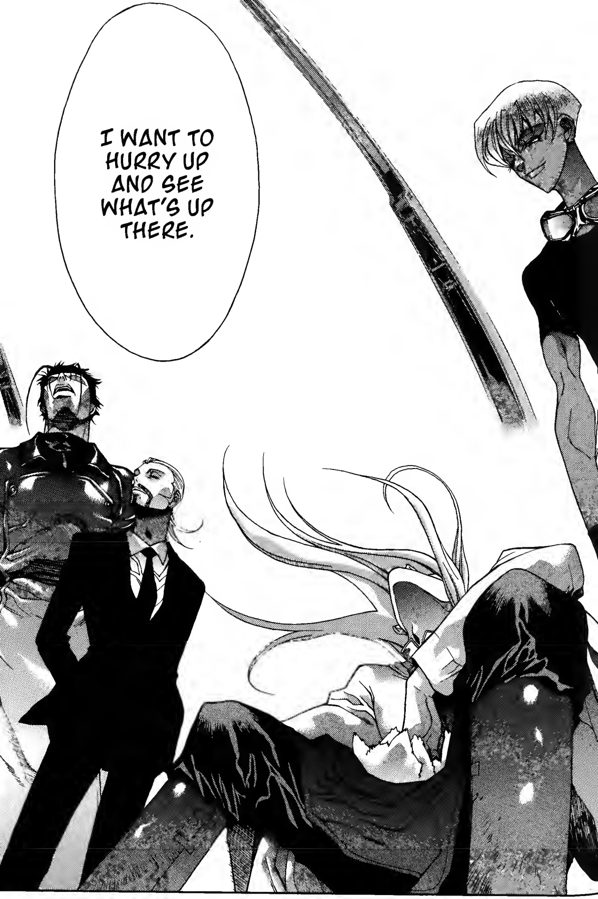



I'M SORRY, EVERYONE.
IT SEEMS THAT I'VE KEPT YOU WAITING.

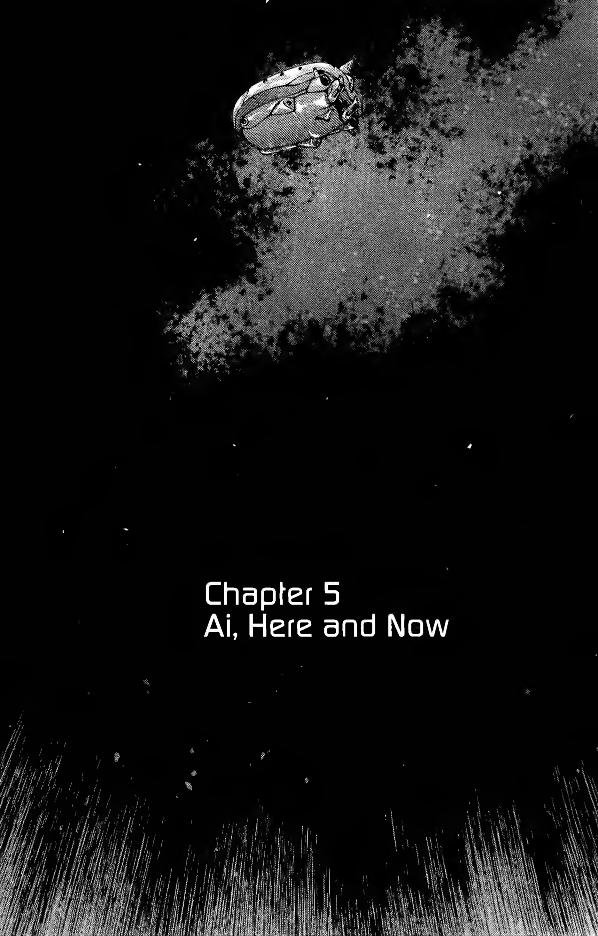

A YOUNG GIRL?
CARON, YOU BASTARD. SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU STARTED DELVING INTO HUMAN TRAFFICKING?!
THE MARINE AGENCY DATA OR THE YOUNG GIRL, WHICH WERE YOU PLANNING TO PRESENT TO THE SHOGUN?
……
DR. MAYUZUMI'S?
SHE'S AN ERROR, LIKE US?
SHO GUN!

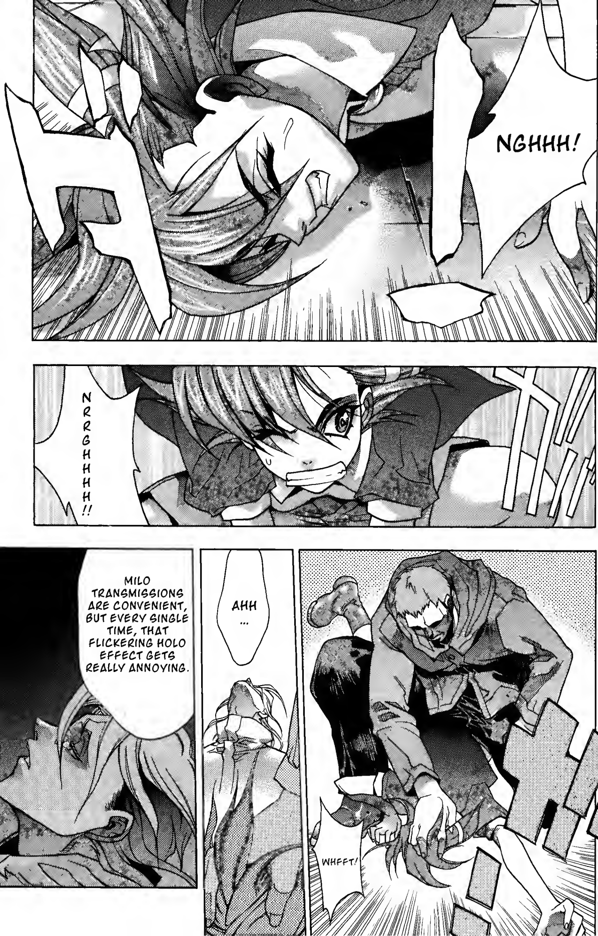

YOU SLIPPED OUT OF OUR SIGHT, WHERE DID YOU GO?,
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS DOES TO US? EVERY SINGLE TIME, HOW MUCH YOU MAKE US WORRY...!
LOOK AT HIM! JAN HAS BEEN FEELING SO RESPONSIBLE THAT HE'S A BROKEN MAN!
I'M... SORRY.
HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND!!!
I'VE BEEN HOLED UP LATELY, SO I THOUGHT THAT I'D GET SOME AIR.
I JUST WENT THIS WAY...
AND THAT WAY...
AND THEN, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE...
...I HEARD THE VOICE.

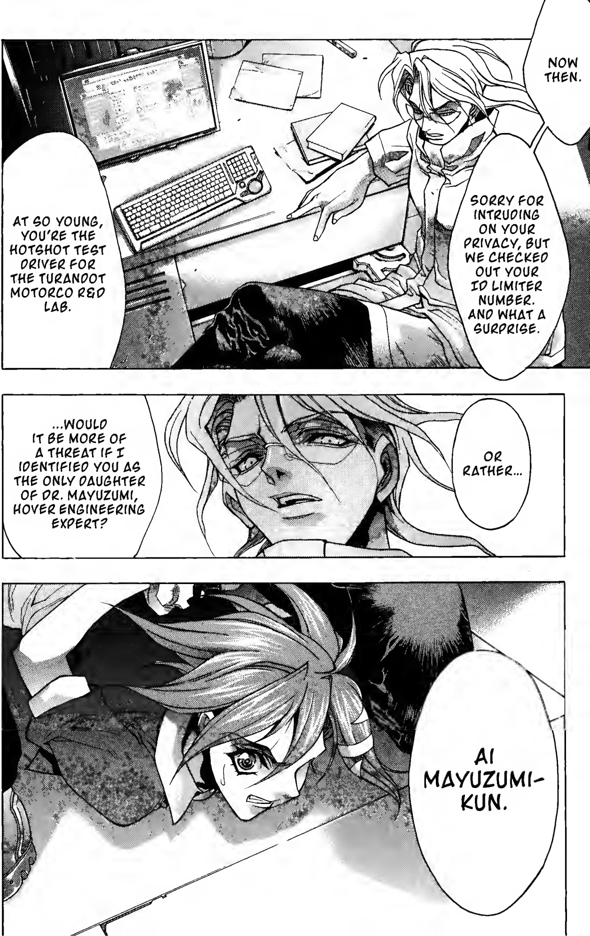

AND THEN I FOUND THIS CAT.
HE'S NOT MAKING ANY SENSE!!
SHOGUN.
IN A FEW MOMENTS, CARON AND THE OTHERS WILL ARRIVE AT ELPIDA.
UNFORTUNATELY THEY WEREN'T ABLE TO PROCURE THE NOIMON MARINE AGENCY'S DEEP SEA CURRENT DATA AS PLANNED, BUT THEY DID ACQUIRE OTHER DATA.
GOOD.

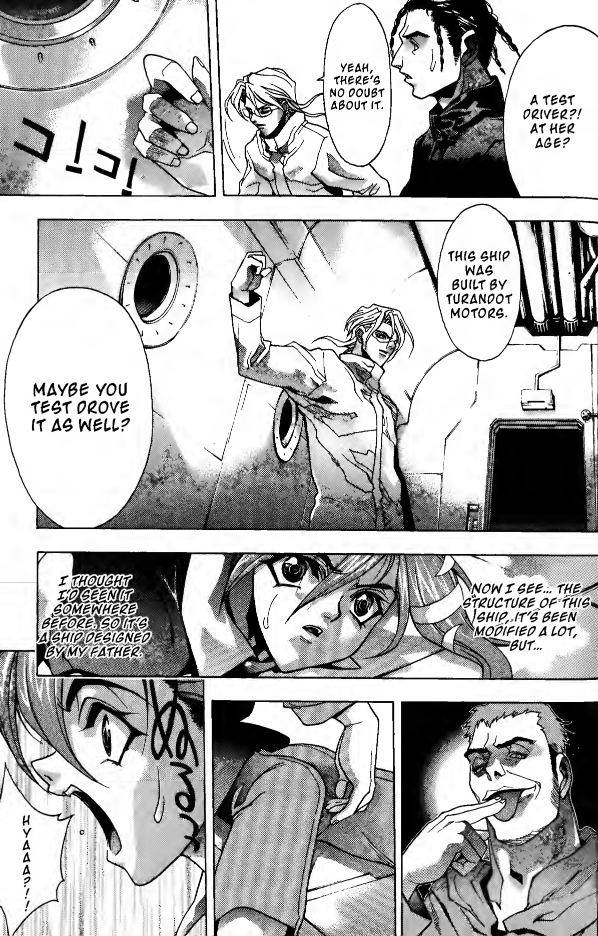

I WANT TO HURRY UP AND SEE WHAT'S UP THERE.

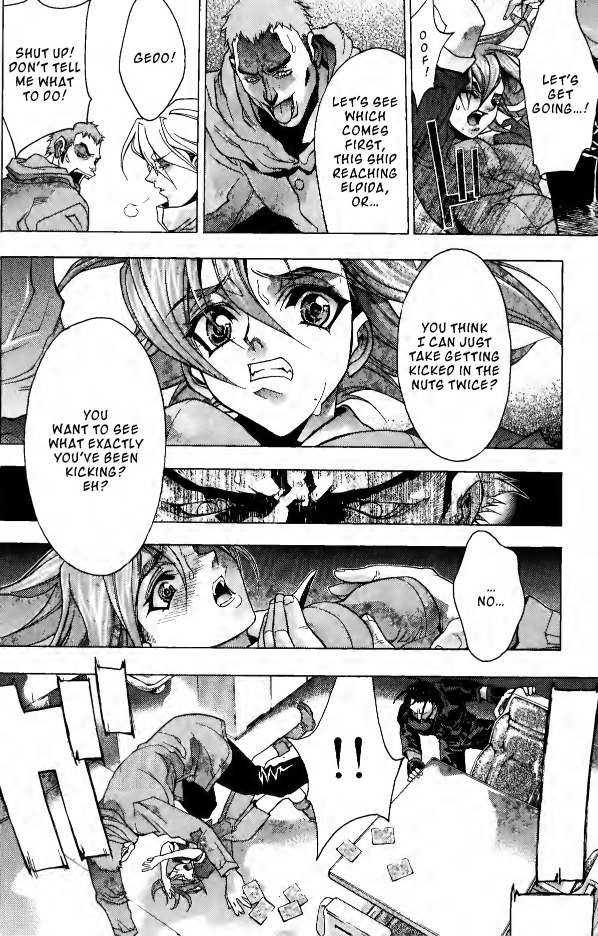
Chapter 5
Ai, Here and Now

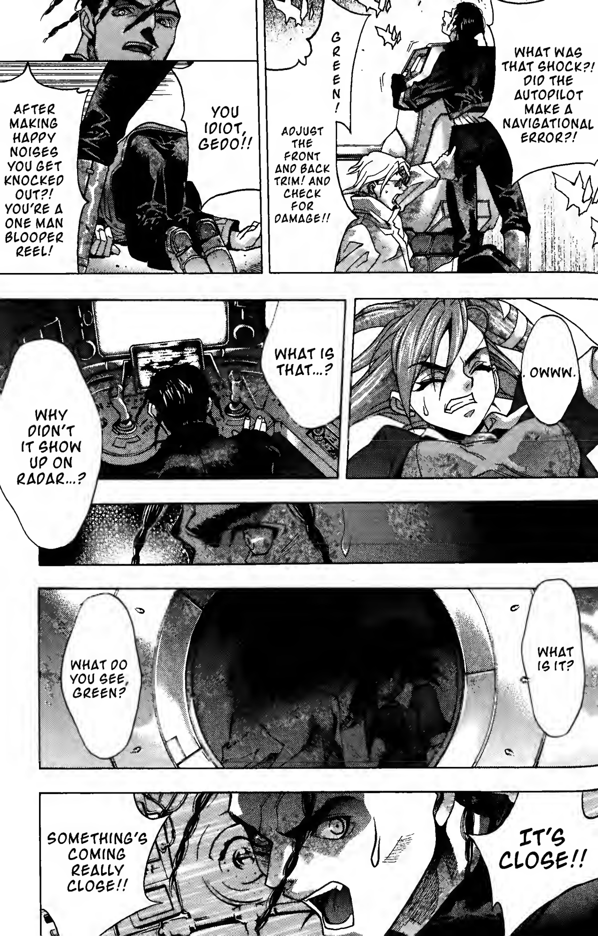


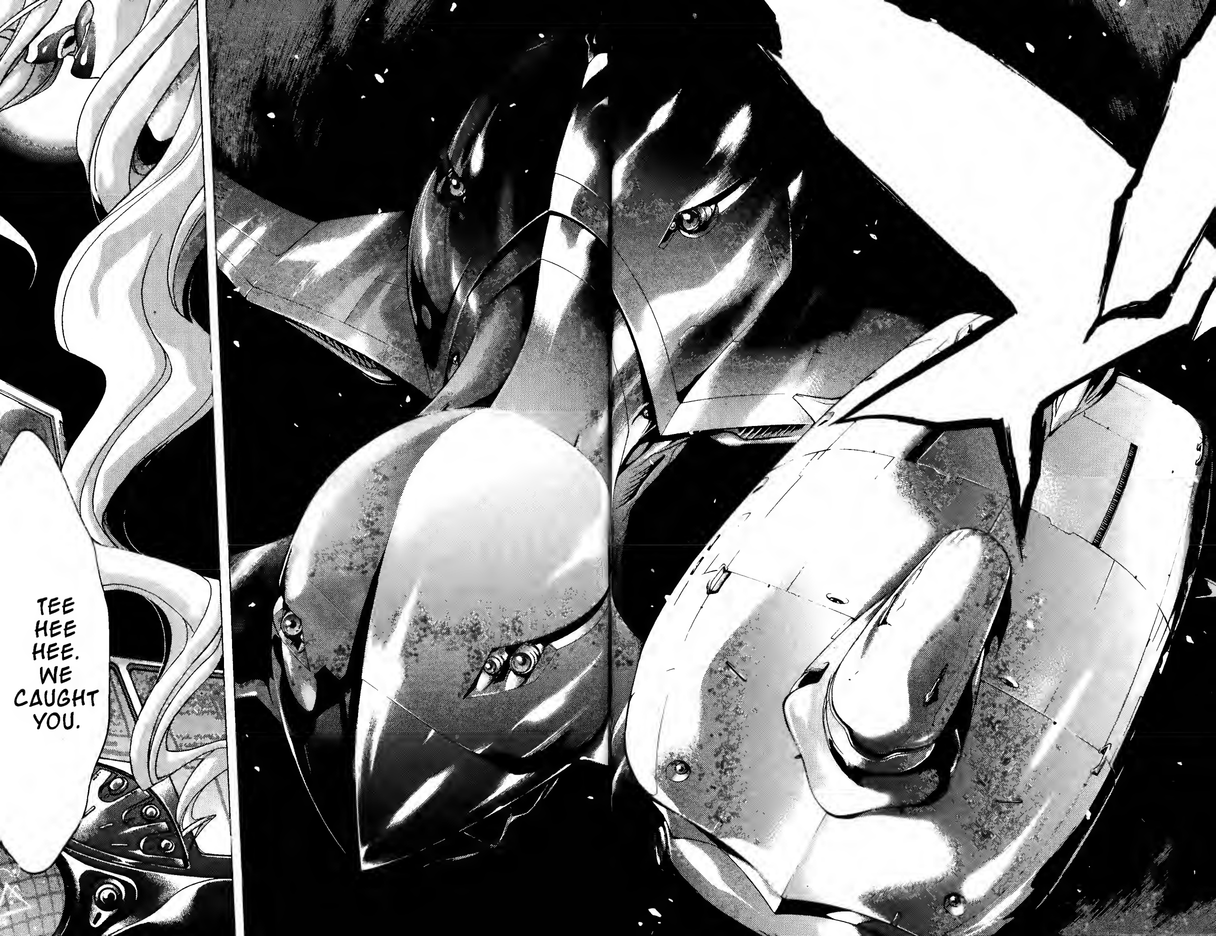

NGHHH!
NRRGHHHHH!!
WHFFT!
AHH ...
MILO TRANSMISSIONS ARE CONVENIENT, BUT EVERY SINGLE TIME, THAT FLICKERING HOLO EFFECT GETS REALLY ANNOYING.

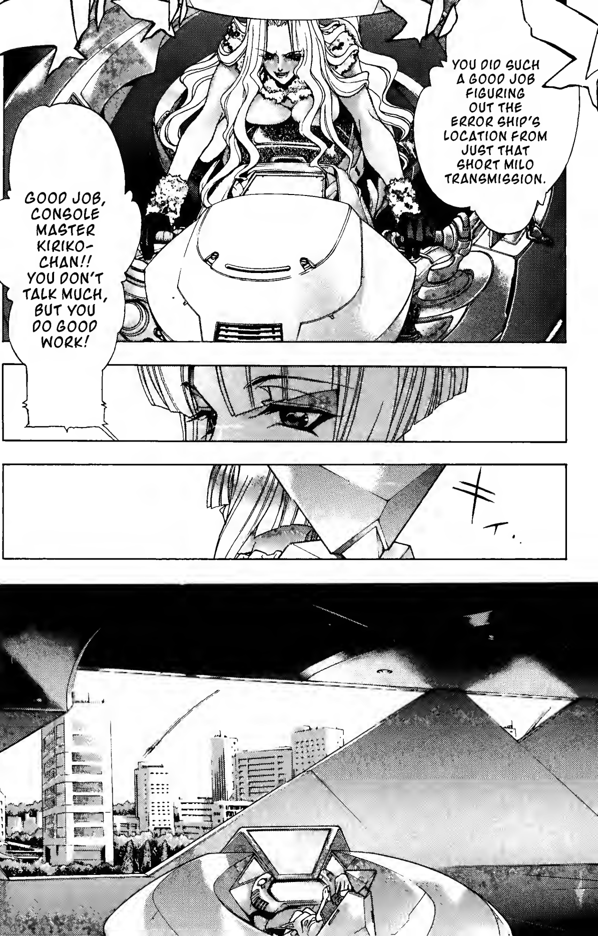

NOW THEN.
SORRY FOR INTRUDING ON YOUR PRIVACY, BUT WE CHECKED OUT YOUR ID LIMITER NUMBER. AND WHAT A SURPRISE.
AT SO YOUNG, YOU'RE THE HOTSHOT TEST DRIVER FOR THE TURANDOT MOTORCO R&D LAB.
OR RATHER...
...WOULD IT BE MORE OF A THREAT IF I IDENTIFIED YOU AS THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF DR. MAYUZUMI, HOVER ENGINEERING EXPERT?
AI MAYUZUMI-KUN.

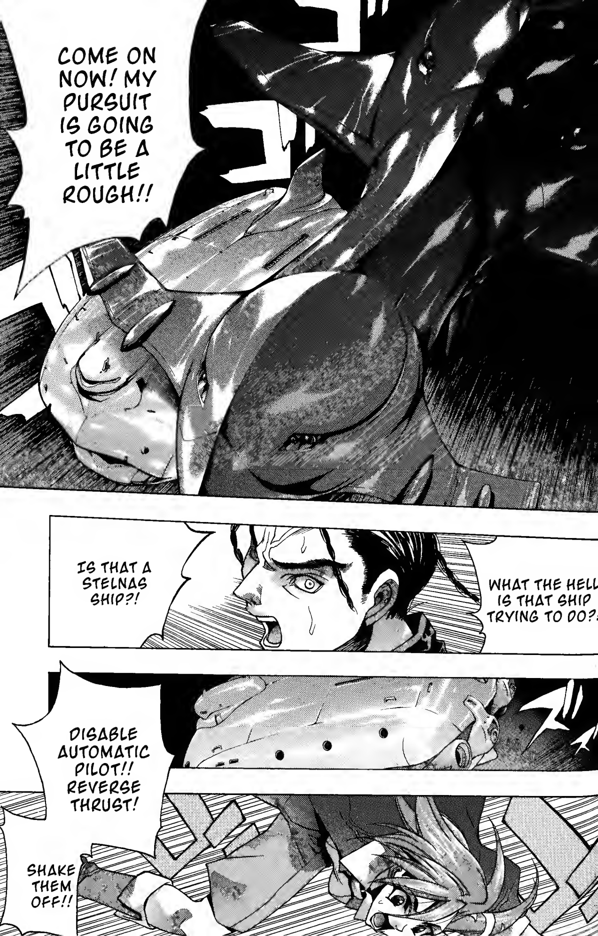

A TEST DRIVER?! AT HER AGE?
YEAH, THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
THIS SHIP WAS BUILT BY TURANDOT MOTORS.
MAYBE YOU TEST DROVE IT AS WELL?
NOW I SEE... THE STRUCTURE OF THIS SHIP, IT'S BEEN MODIFIED A LOT, BUT...
I THOUGHT I'D SEEN IT SOMEWHERE BEFORE. SO IT'S A SHIP DESIGNED BY MY FATHER.
HYAAA?!!

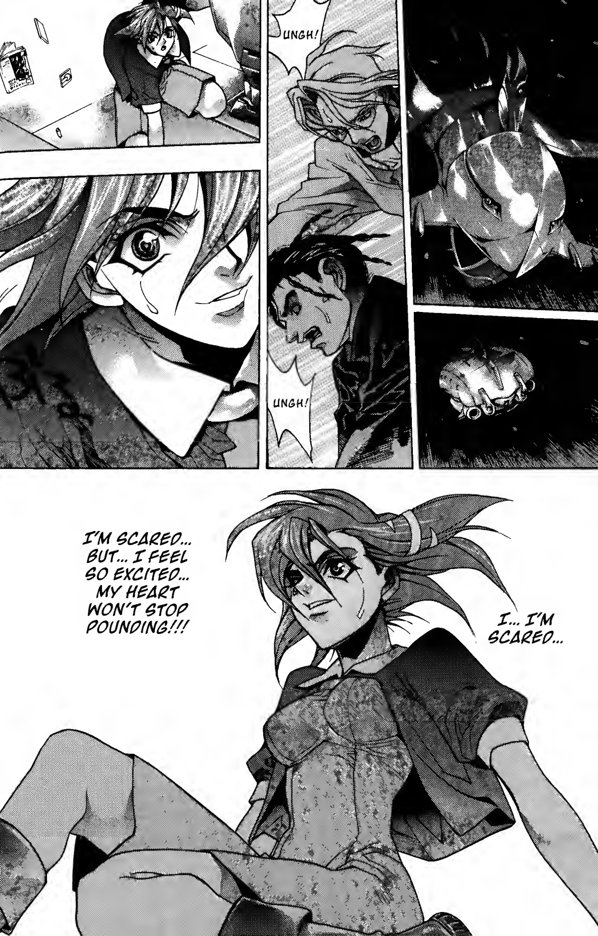

LET'S GET GOING...!
OOF!
LET'S SEE WHICH COMES FIRST, THIS SHIP REACHING ELPIDA, OR...
GEDO!
SHUT UP! DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO!
YOU THINK I CAN JUST TAKE GETTING KICKED IN THE NUTS TWICE?
YOU WANT TO SEE WHAT EXACTLY YOU'VE BEEN KICKING? EH?
... NO...
!!

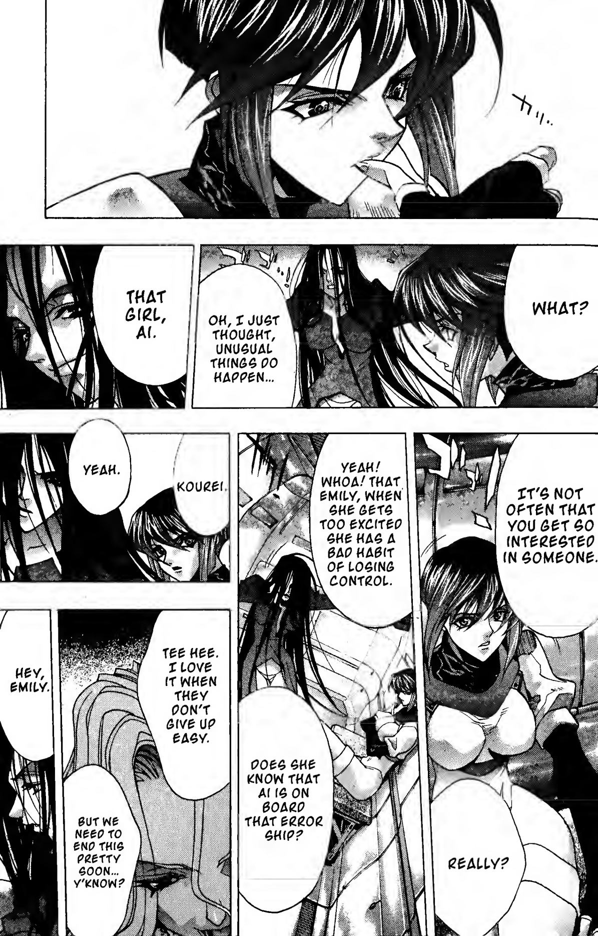

WHAT WAS THAT SHOCK?! DID THE AUTOPILOT MAKE A NAVIGATIONAL ERROR?!
GREEN!
ADJUST THE FRONT AND BACK TRIM! AND CHECK FOR DAMAGE!!
YOU IDIOT, GEDO!!
AFTER MAKING HAPPY NOISES YOU GET KNOCKED OUT?! YOU'RE A ONE MAN BLOOPER REEL!
. OWWW.
WHAT IS THAT...?
WHY DIDN'T IT SHOW UP ON RADAR...?
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT DO YOU SEE, GREEN?
IT'S CLOSE!!
SOMETHING'S COMING REALLY CLOSE!!

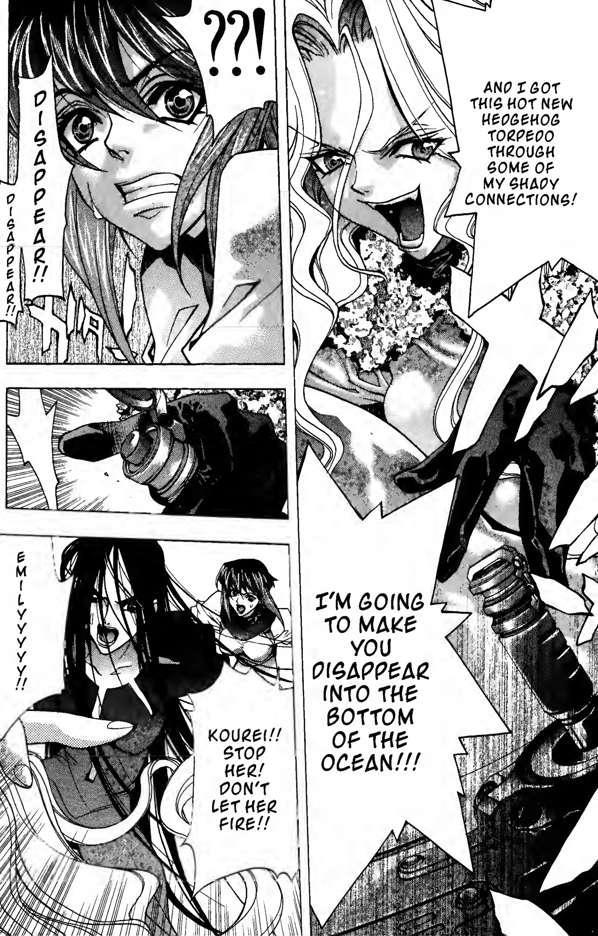

TEE HEE HEE. WE CAUGHT YOU.

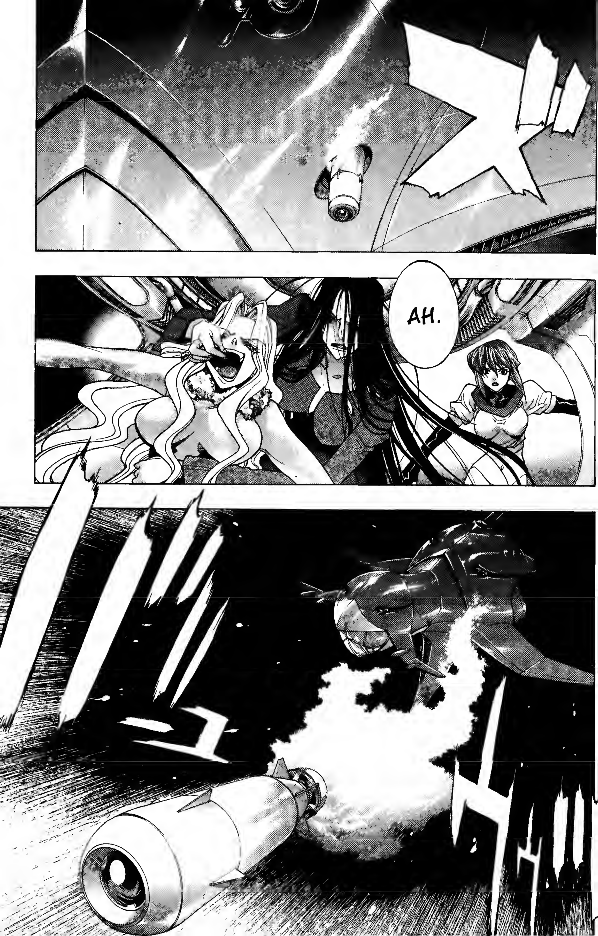

YOU DID SUCH A GOOD JOB FIGURING OUT THE ERROR SHIP'S LOCATION FROM JUST THAT SHORT MILO TRANSMISSION.
GOOD JOB, CONSOLE MASTER KIRIKO-CHAN!! YOU DON'T TALK MUCH, BUT YOU DO GOOD WORK!

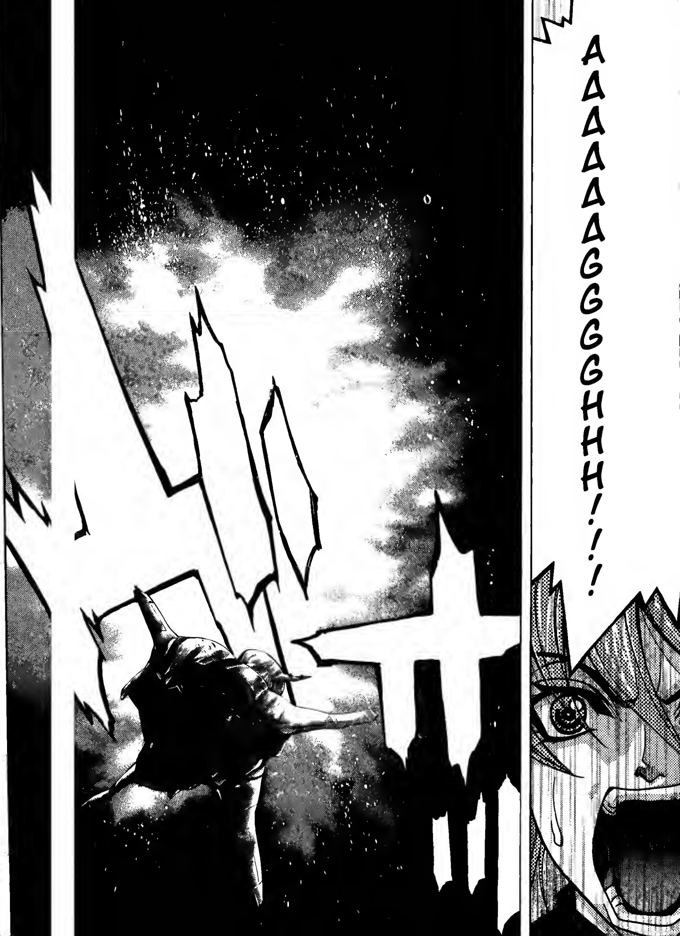

COME ON NOW! MY PURSUIT IS GOING TO BE A LITTLE ROUGH!!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT SHIP TRYING TO DO?
IS THAT A STELNAS SHIP?!
DISABLE AUTOMATIC PILOT!! REVERSE THRUST!
SHAKE THEM OFF!!

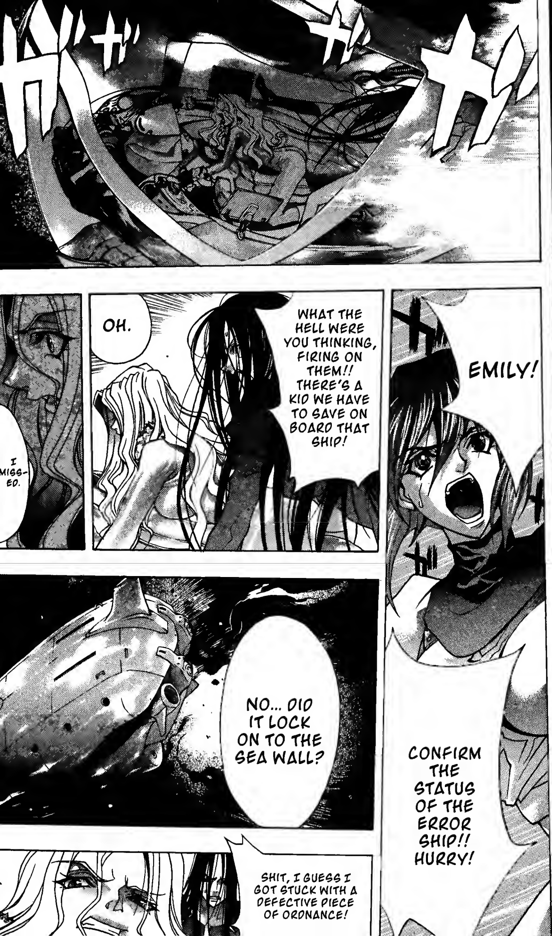

UNGH!
UNGH!
I... I'M SCARED...
I'M SCARED... BUT... I FEEL SO EXCITED... MY HEART WON'T STOP POUNDING!!!

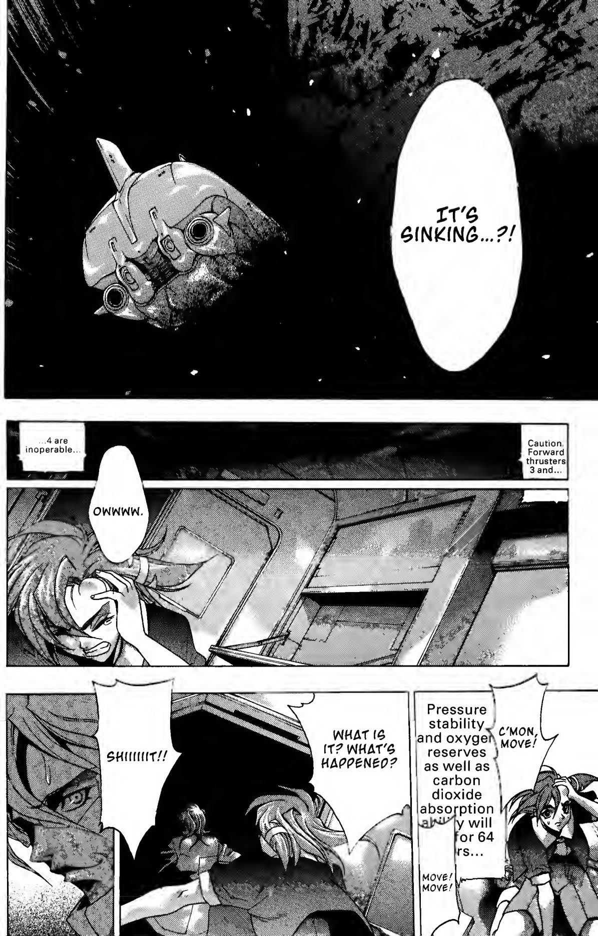

カリ..
WHAT?
OH, I JUST THOUGHT, UNUSUAL THINGS DO HAPPEN...
THAT GIRL, AI.
IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT YOU GET SO INTERESTED IN SOMEONE.
REALLY?
YEAH! WHOA! THAT EMILY, WHEN SHE GETS TOO EXCITED SHE HAS A BAD HABIT OF LOSING CONTROL.
DOES SHE KNOW THAT AI IS ON BOARD THAT ERROR SHIP?
KOUREI.
YEAH.
TEE HEE. I LOVE IT WHEN THEY DON'T GIVE UP EASY.
HEY, EMILY.
BUT WE NEED TO END THIS PRETTY SOON... Y'KNOW?

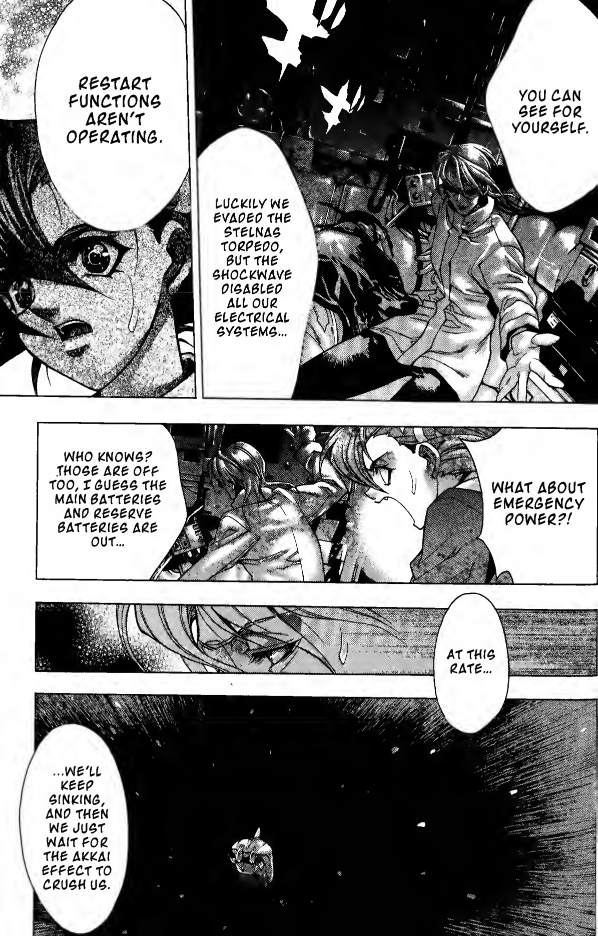

AND I GOT THIS HOT NEW HEDGEHOG TORPEDO THROUGH SOME OF MY SHADY CONNECTIONS!
??!
DISAPPEAR!!
DISAPPEAR!!
I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU DISAPPEAR INTO THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN!!!
KOUREI!! STOP HER! DON'T LET HER FIRE!!
EMILYYYYY!!

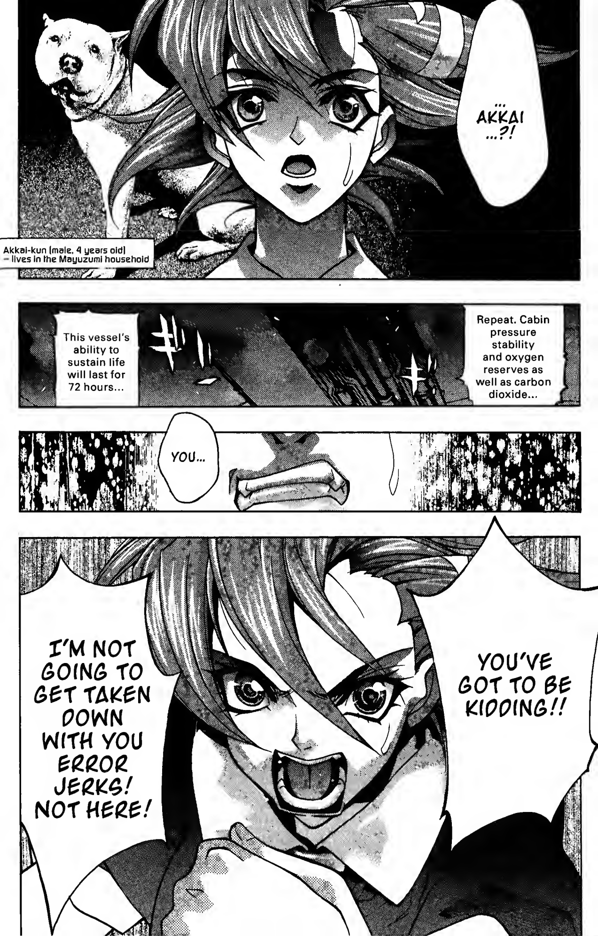

AH.

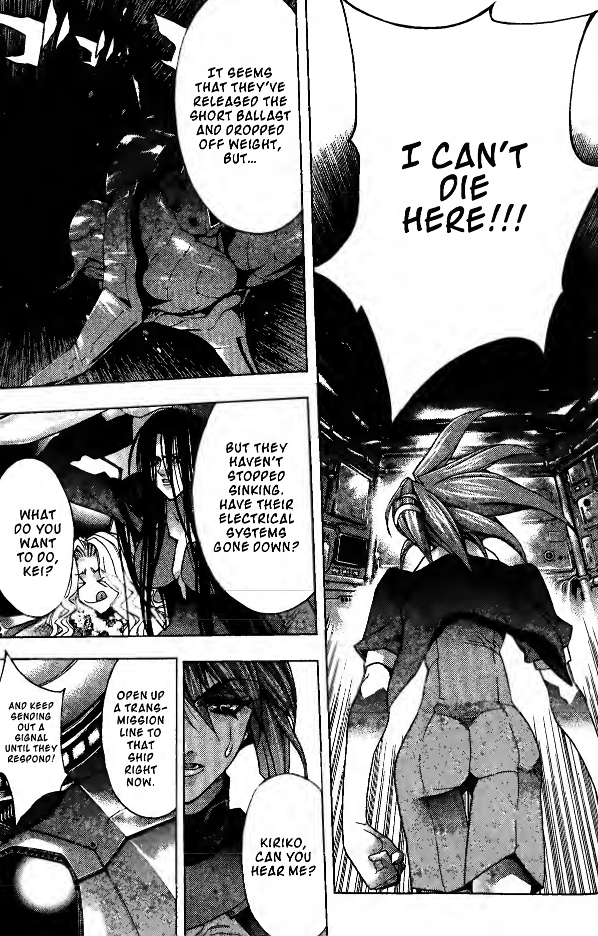

AAAAAAGGGGHHH!!!

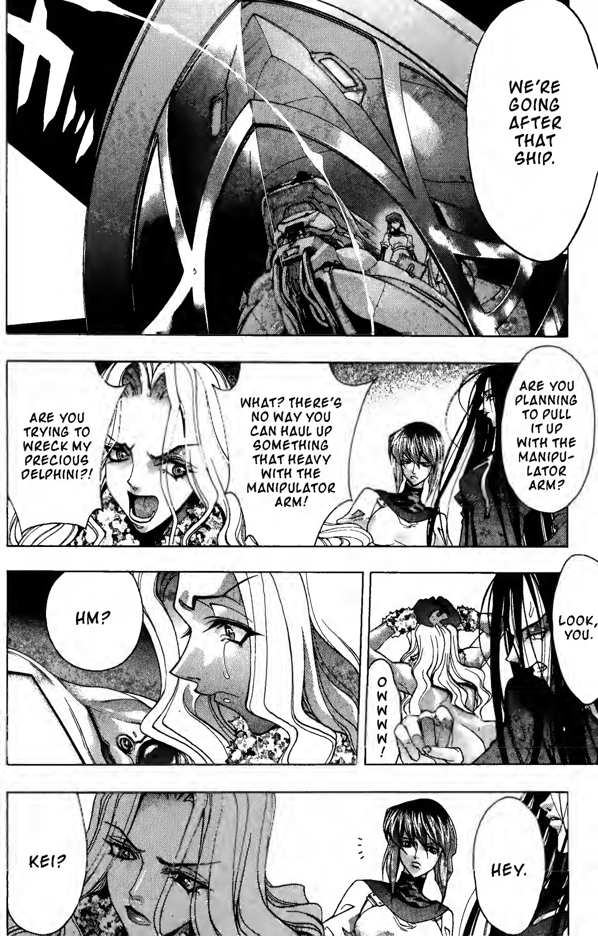

ガガガ
EMILY!
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING, FIRING ON THEM!! THERE'S A KID WE HAVE TO SAVE ON BOARD THAT SHIP!
OH.
I MISSED.
CONFIRM THE STATUS OF THE ERROR SHIP!! HURRY!
NO... DID IT LOCK ON TO THE SEA WALL?
SHIT, I GUESS I GOT STUCK WITH A DEFECTIVE PIECE OF ORDNANCE!

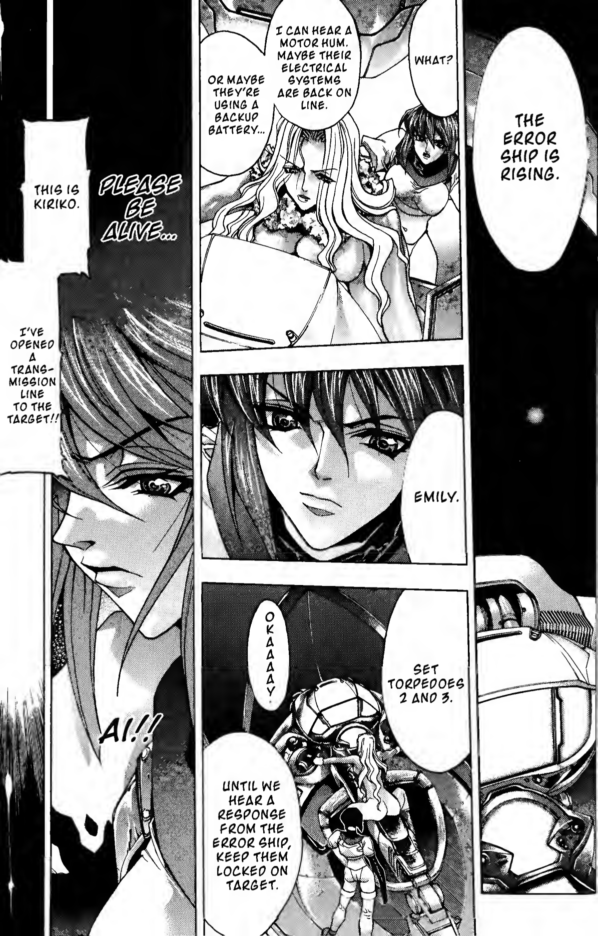

IT'S SINKING...?!
Caution. Forward thrusters 3 and...
...4 are inoperable...
OWWWW.
C'MON, MOVE!
Pressure stability and oxygen reserves as well as carbon dioxide absorption ability will for 64 rs...
MOVE! MOVE!
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENED?
SHIIIIIIT!!

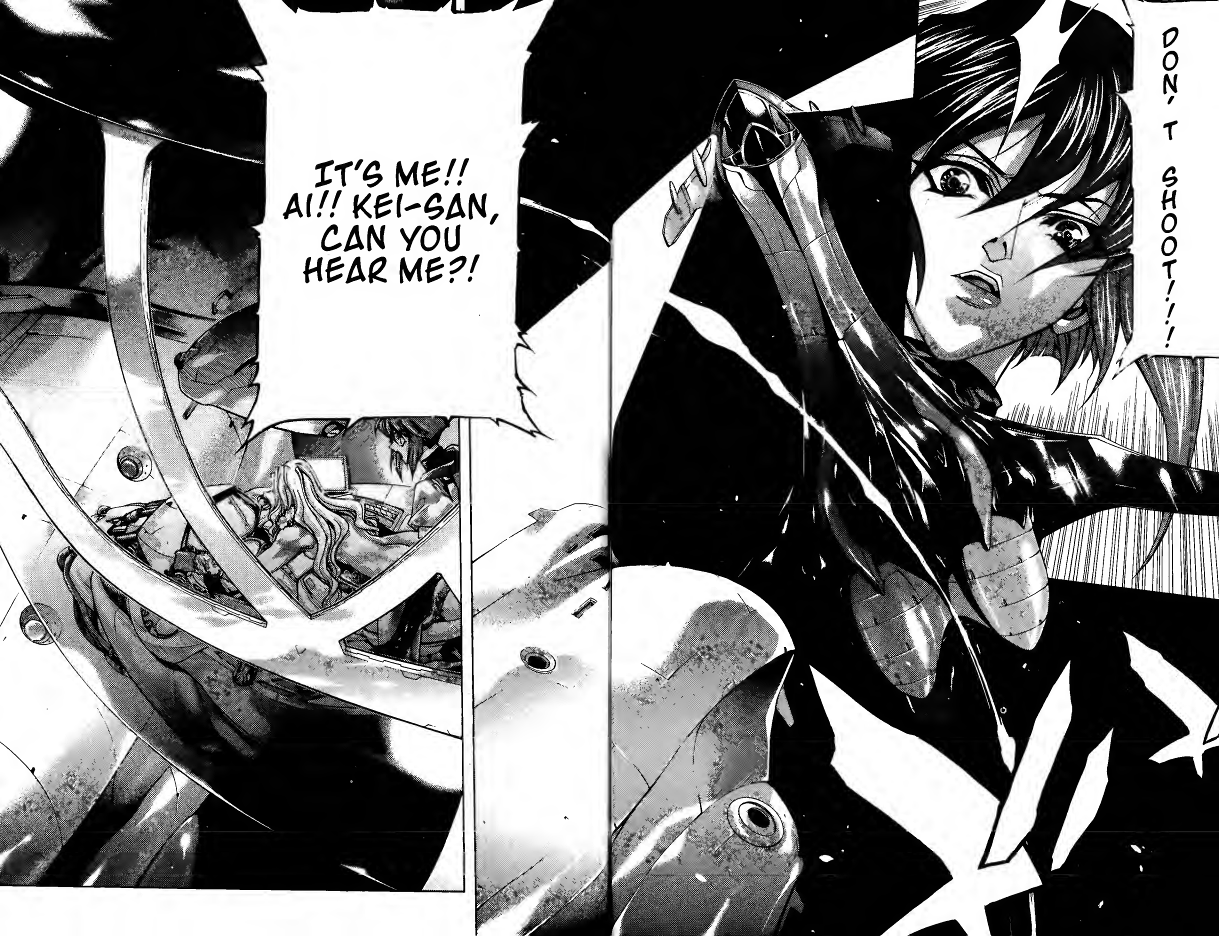

YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF.
LUCKILY WE EVADED THE STELNAS TORPEDO, BUT THE SHOCKWAVE DISABLED ALL OUR ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS...
RESTART FUNCTIONS AREN'T OPERATING.
WHAT ABOUT EMERGENCY POWER?!
WHO KNOWS? THOSE ARE OFF TOO, I GUESS THE MAIN BATTERIES AND RESERVE BATTERIES ARE OUT...
AT THIS RATE...
...WE'LL KEEP SINKING, AND THEN WE JUST WAIT FOR THE AKKAI EFFECT TO CRUSH US.

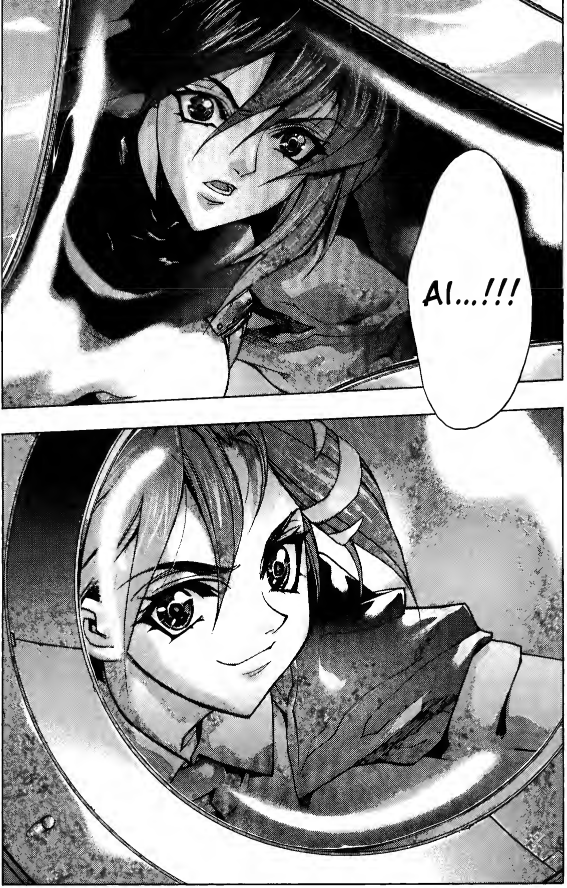

...AKKAI...?!
Akkai-kun (male, 4 years old) – lives in the Mayuzumi household
Repeat. Cabin pressure stability and oxygen reserves as well as carbon dioxide...
This vessel's ability to sustain life will last for 72 hours...
YOU...
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!!
I'M NOT GOING TO GET TAKEN DOWN WITH YOU ERROR JERKS! NOT HERE!

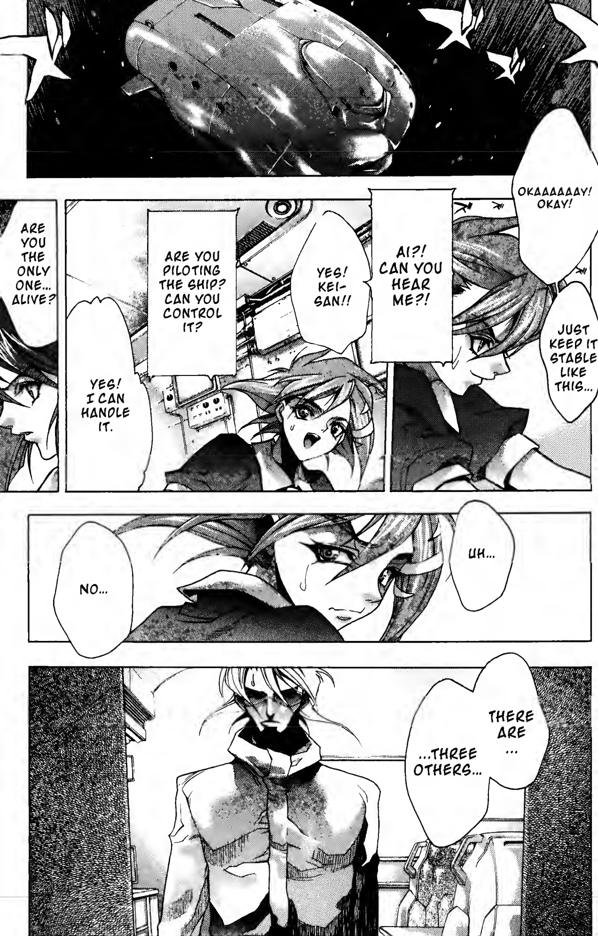

I CAN'T DIE HERE!!!
It seems that they've released the short ballast and dropped off weight, but...
But they haven't stopped sinking. Have their electrical systems gone down?
What do you want to do, Kei?
Open up a transmission line to that ship right now.
And keep sending out a signal until they respond!
Kiriko, can you hear me?


WE'RE GOING AFTER THAT SHIP.
ARE YOU PLANNING TO PULL IT UP WITH THE MANIPULATOR ARM?
WHAT? THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN HAUL UP SOMETHING THAT HEAVY WITH THE MANIPULATOR ARM!
ARE YOU TRYING TO WRECK MY PRECIOUS DELPHINI?!
LOOK, YOU.
OWWWW!
HM?
HEY.
KEI?

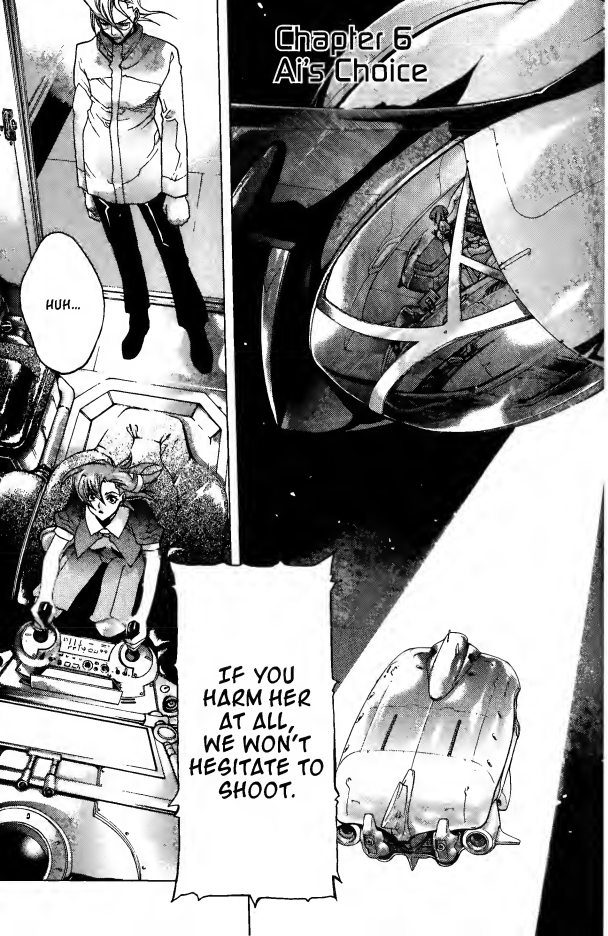

THE ERROR SHIP IS RISING.
WHAT?
I CAN HEAR A MOTOR HUM. MAYBE THEIR ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS ARE BACK ON LINE.
OR MAYBE THEY'RE USING A BACKUP BATTERY...
EMILY.
SET TORPEDOES 2 AND 3.
OKAAAAY.
UNTIL WE HEAR A RESPONSE FROM THE ERROR SHIP, KEEP THEM LOCKED ON TARGET.
PLEASE BE ALIVE...
THIS IS KIRIKO.
I'VE OPENED A TRANSMISSION LINE TO THE TARGET!!
AI!!

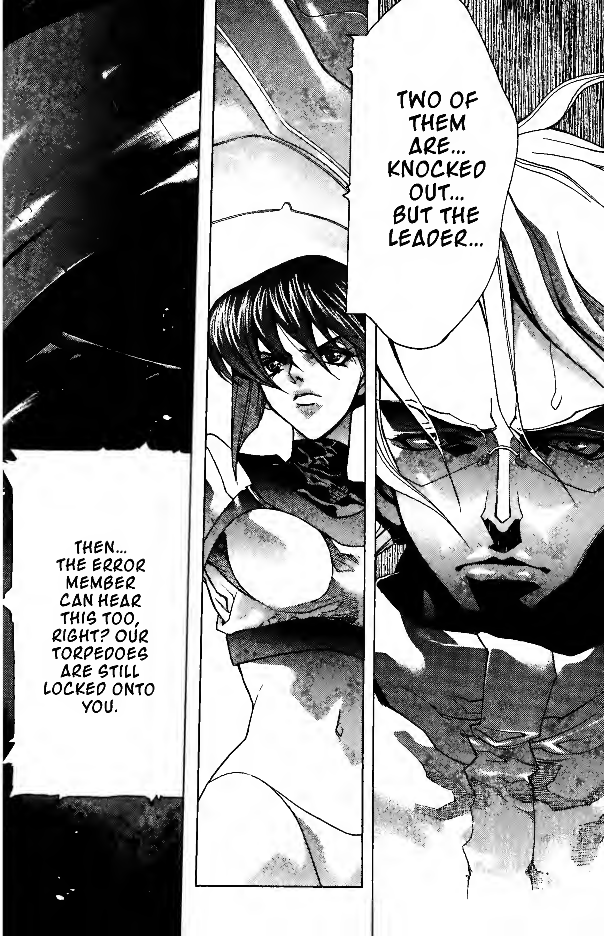

DON'T SHOOT!!!
IT'S ME!! AI!! KEI-SAN, CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

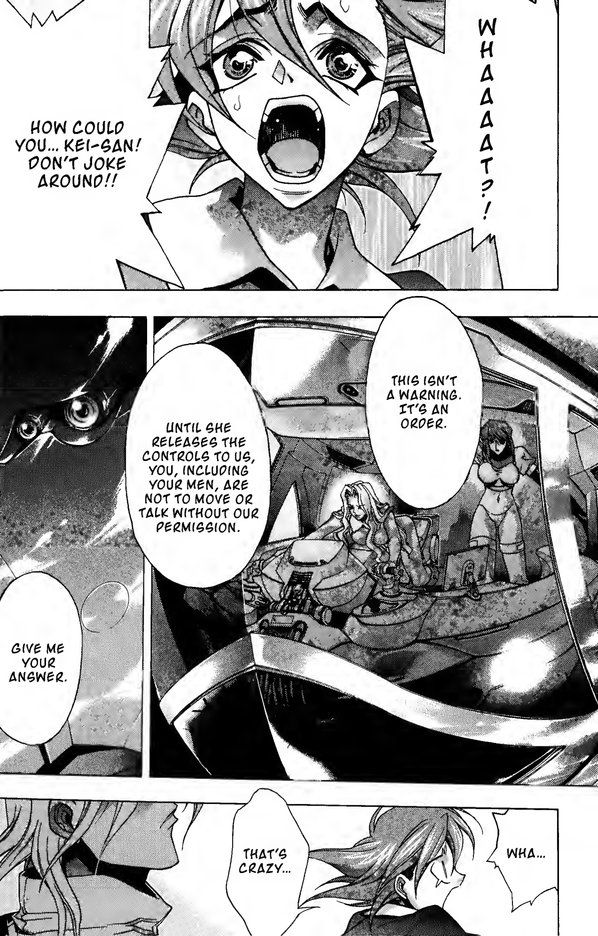

AI...!!!

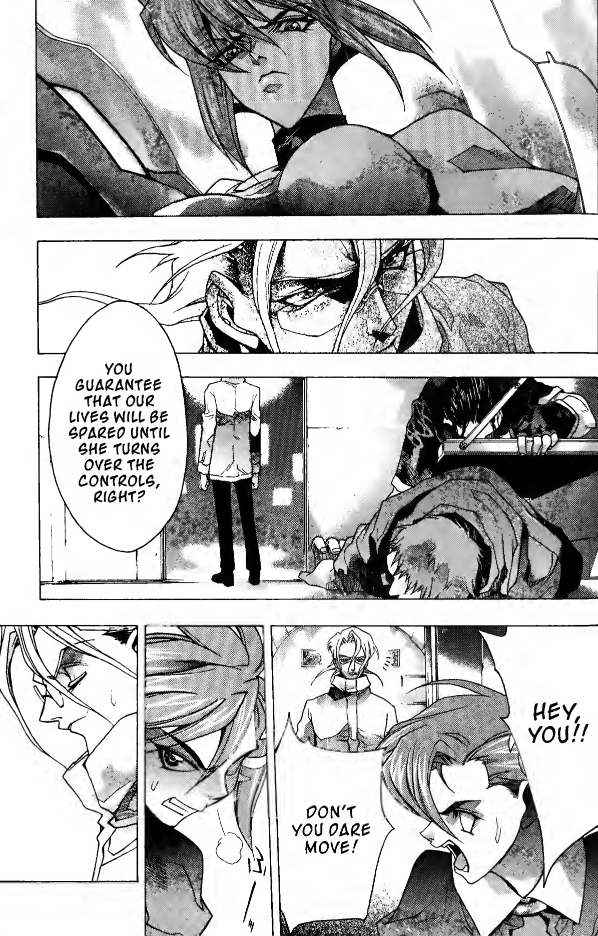

OKAAAAAAY! OKAY!
JUST KEEP IT STABLE LIKE THIS...
AI?! CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
YES! KEI-SAN!!
ARE YOU PILOTING THE SHIP? CAN YOU CONTROL IT?
YES! I CAN HANDLE IT.
ARE YOU THE ONLY ONE... ALIVE?
UH...
NO...
THERE ARE...
...THREE OTHERS...

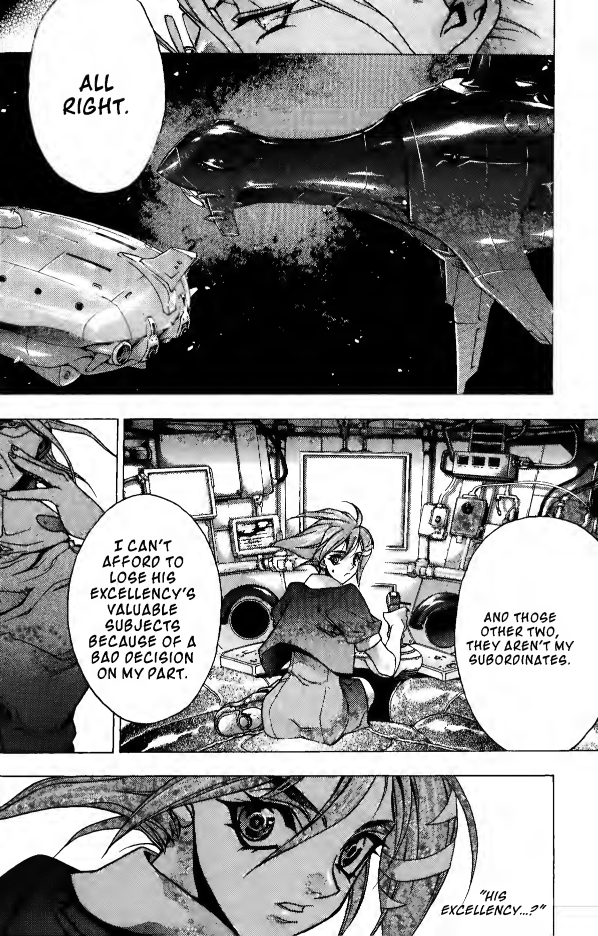
Chapter 6
Ai's Choice

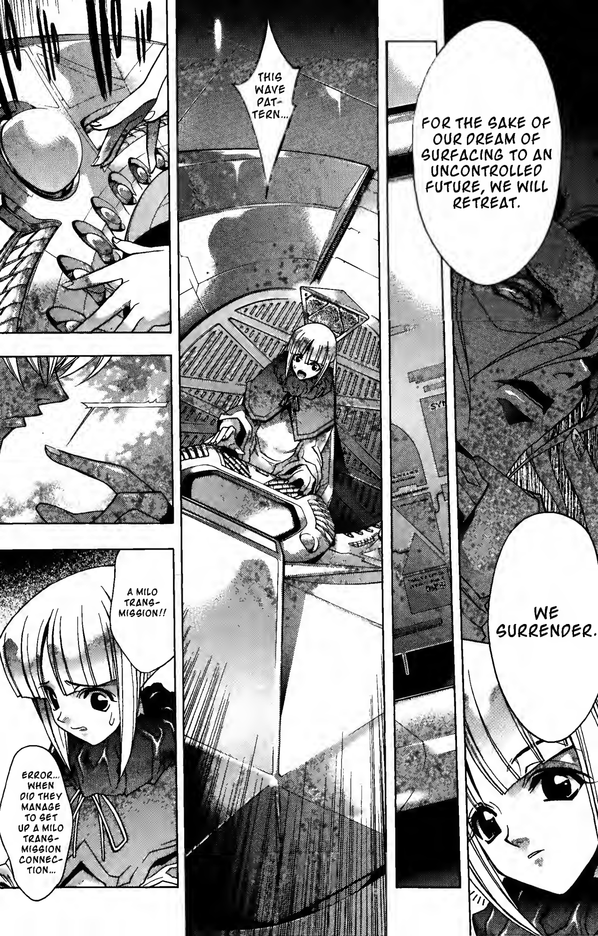

IF YOU HARM HER AT ALL, WE WON'T HESITATE TO SHOOT.
HUH...

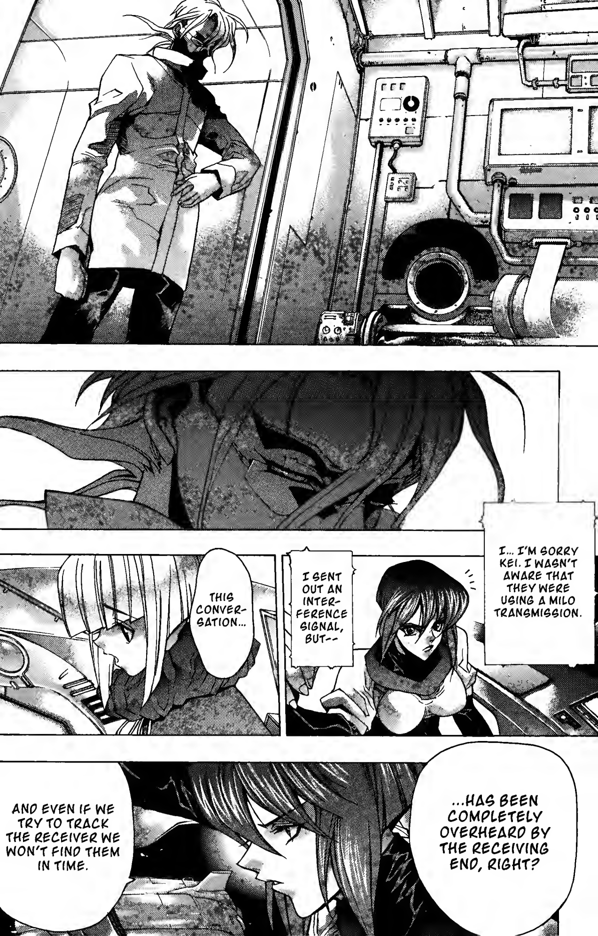

THEN... THE ERROR MEMBER CAN HEAR THIS TOO, RIGHT? OUR TORPEDOES ARE STILL LOCKED ONTO YOU.
TWO OF THEM ARE... KNOCKED OUT... BUT THE LEADER...

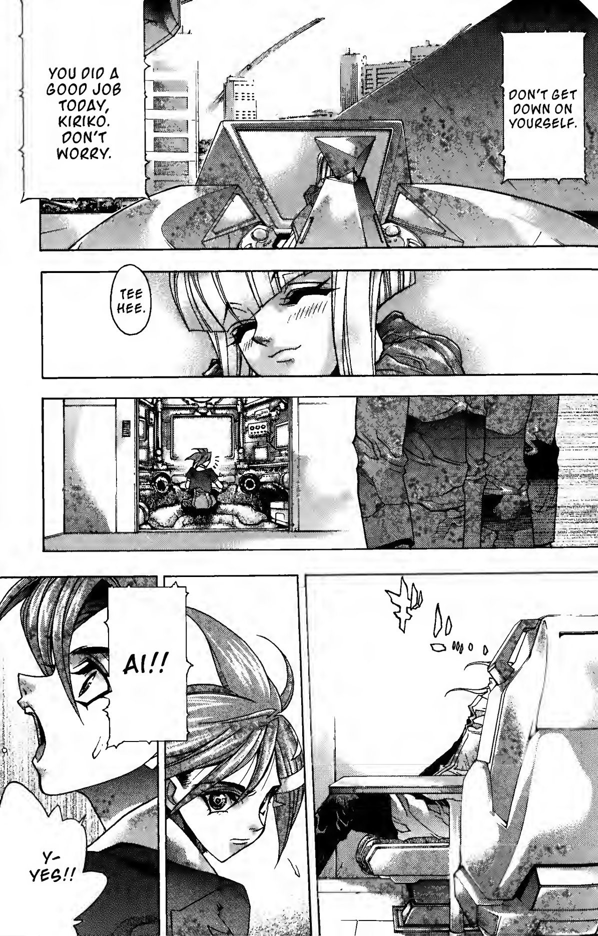

WHAAAAAT?!
HOW COULD YOU... KEI-SAN! DON'T JOKE AROUND!!
THIS ISN'T A WARNING. IT'S AN ORDER.
UNTIL SHE RELEASES THE CONTROLS TO US, YOU, INCLUDING YOUR MEN, ARE NOT TO MOVE OR TALK WITHOUT OUR PERMISSION.
GIVE ME YOUR ANSWER.
WHA...
THAT'S CRAZY...

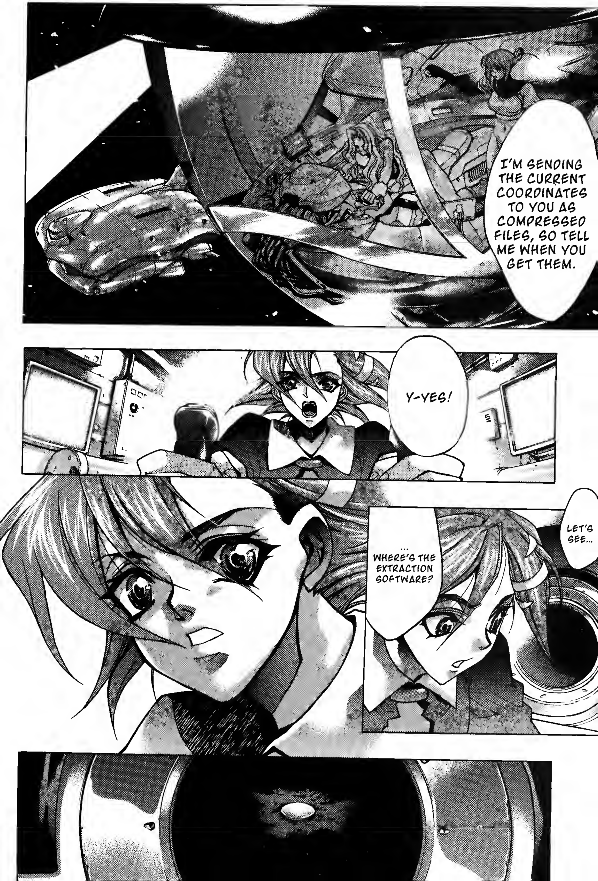

YOU GUARANTEE THAT OUR LIVES WILL BE SPARED UNTIL SHE TURNS OVER THE CONTROLS, RIGHT?
HEY, YOU!!
DON'T YOU DARE MOVE!

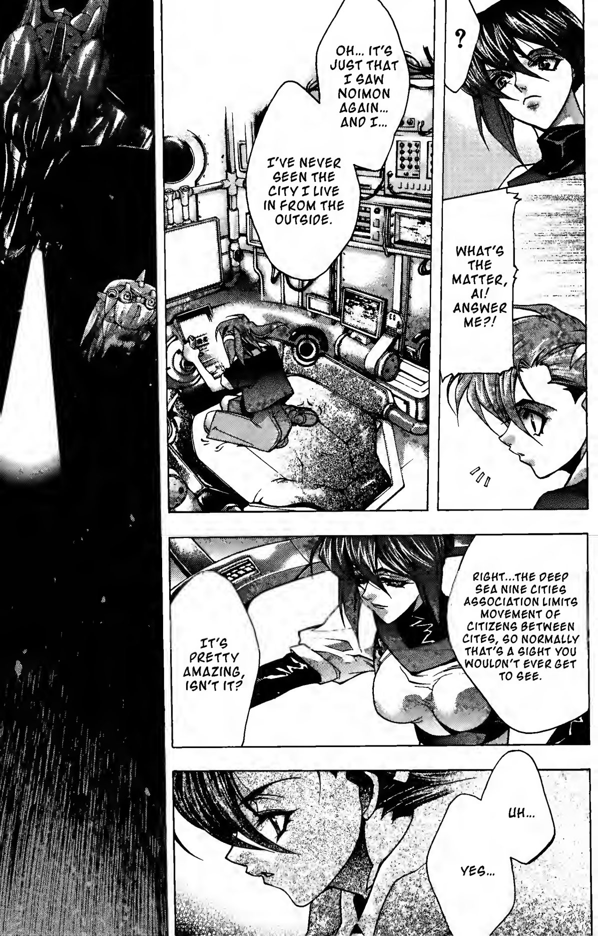

ALL RIGHT.
AND THOSE OTHER TWO, THEY AREN'T MY SUBORDINATES.
I CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE HIS EXCELLENCY'S VALUABLE SUBJECTS BECAUSE OF A BAD DECISION ON MY PART.
"HIS EXCELLENCY...?"

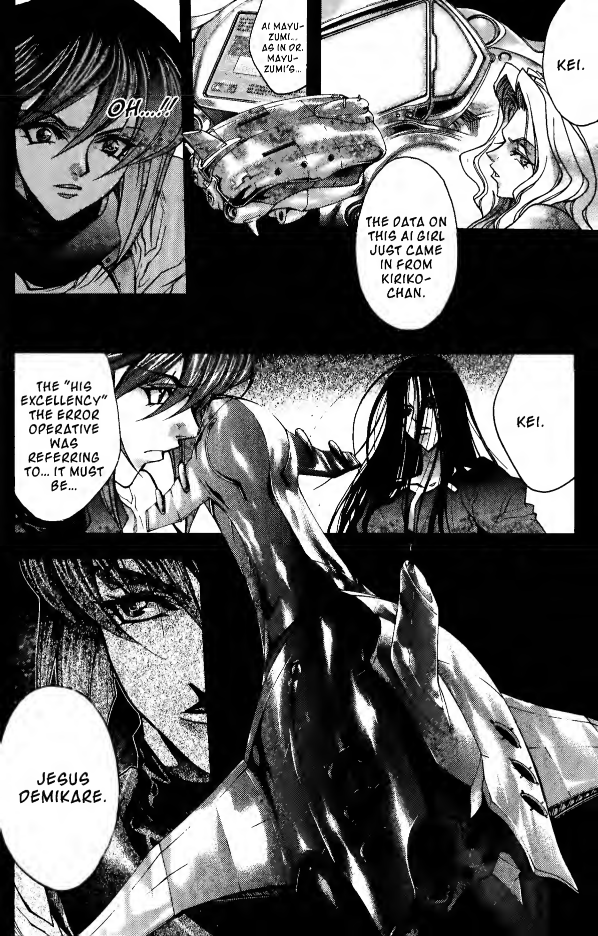

FOR THE SAKE OF OUR DREAM OF SURFACING TO AN UNCONTROLLED FUTURE, WE WILL RETREAT.
WE SURRENDER.
THIS WAVE PATTERN...
A MILO TRANSMISSION!!
ERROR... WHEN DID THEY MANAGE TO SET UP A MILO TRANSMISSION CONNECTION...

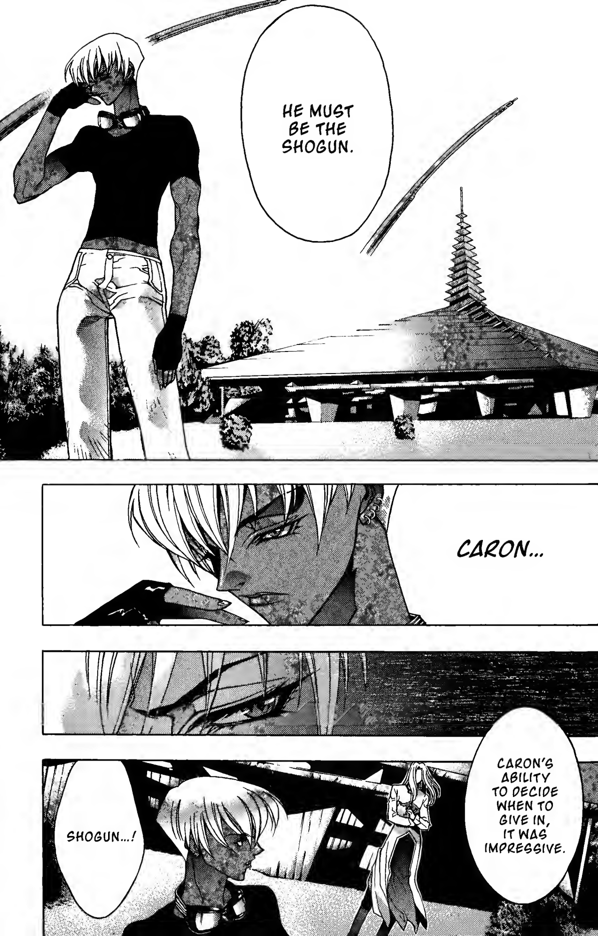

I... I'm sorry Kei. I wasn't aware that they were using a Milo transmission.
I sent out an interference signal, but--
This conversation...
...has been completely overheard by the receiving end, right?
And even if we try to track the receiver we won't find them in time.

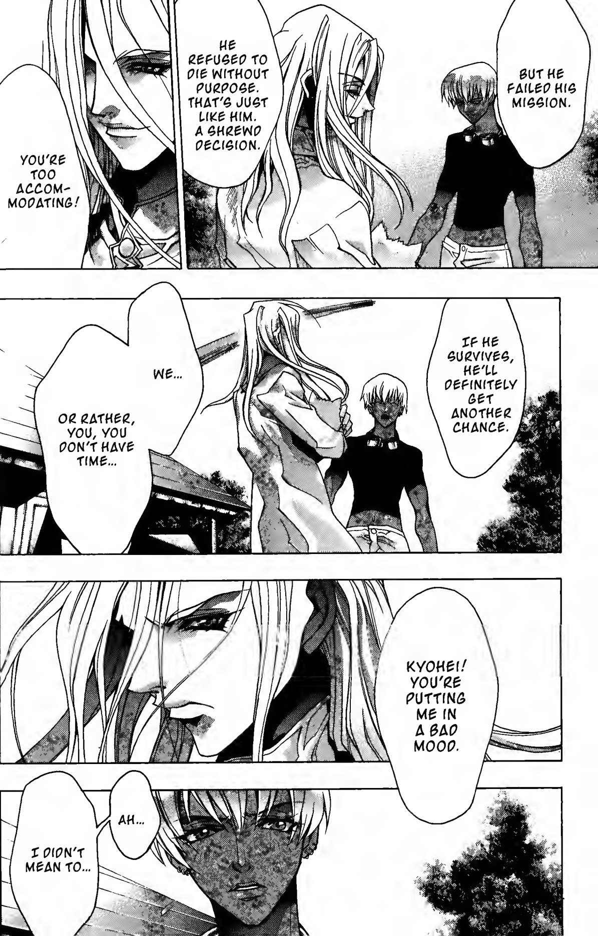

DON'T GET DOWN ON YOURSELF.
YOU DID A GOOD JOB TODAY, KIRIKO. DON'T WORRY.
TEE HEE.
AI!!
Y-YES!!

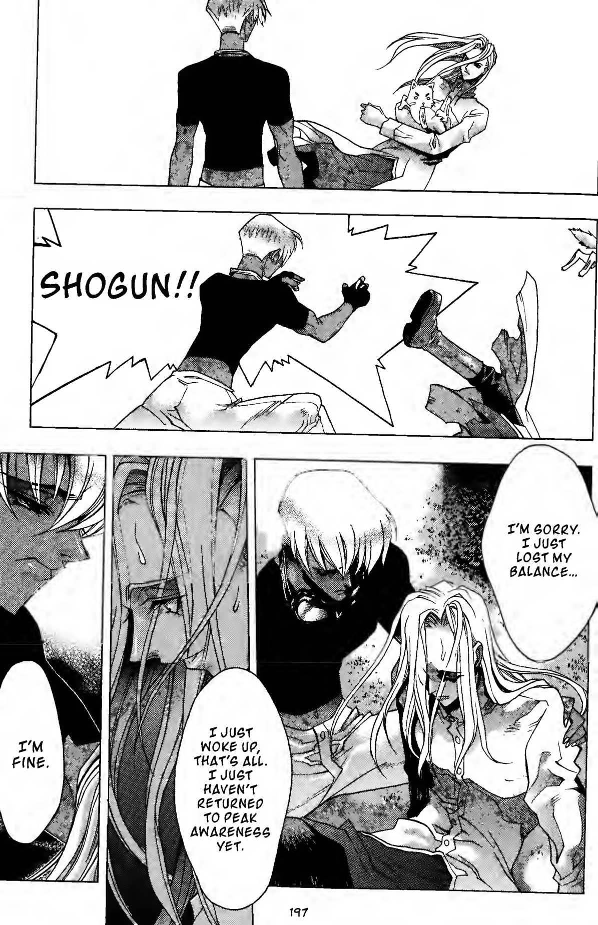

I'M SENDING THE CURRENT COORDINATES TO YOU AS COMPRESSED FILES, SO TELL ME WHEN YOU GET THEM.
Y-YES!
LET'S SEE...
... WHERE'S THE EXTRACTION SOFTWARE?

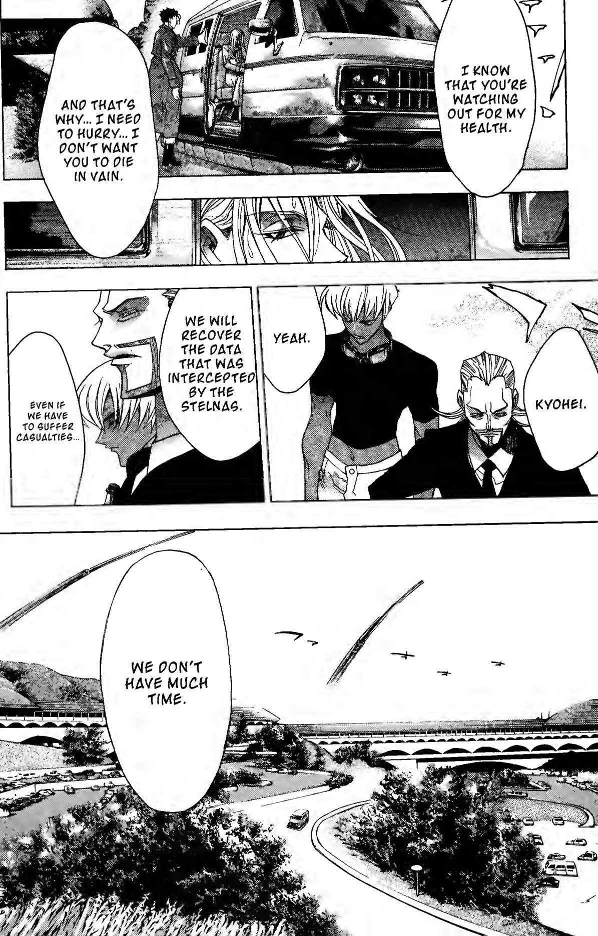

?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, AI! ANSWER ME?!
OH... IT'S JUST THAT I SAW NOIMON AGAIN... AND I...
I'VE NEVER SEEN THE CITY I LIVE IN FROM THE OUTSIDE.
RIGHT...THE DEEP SEA NINE CITIES ASSOCIATION LIMITS MOVEMENT OF CITIZENS BETWEEN CITES, SO NORMALLY THAT'S A SIGHT YOU WOULDN'T EVER GET TO SEE.
IT'S PRETTY AMAZING, ISN'T IT?
UH...
YES...

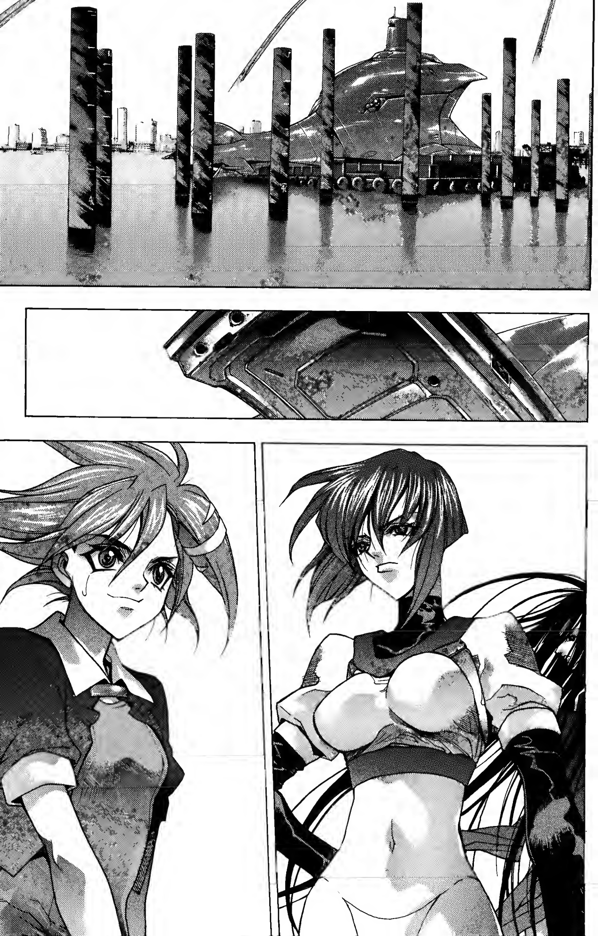

KEI.
THE DATA ON THIS AI GIRL JUST CAME IN FROM KIRIKO-CHAN.
AI MAYUZUMI... AS IN DR. MAYUZUMI'S...
OH...!!
KEI.
THE "HIS EXCELLENCY" THE ERROR OPERATIVE WAS REFERRING TO... IT MUST BE...
JESUS DEMIKARE.

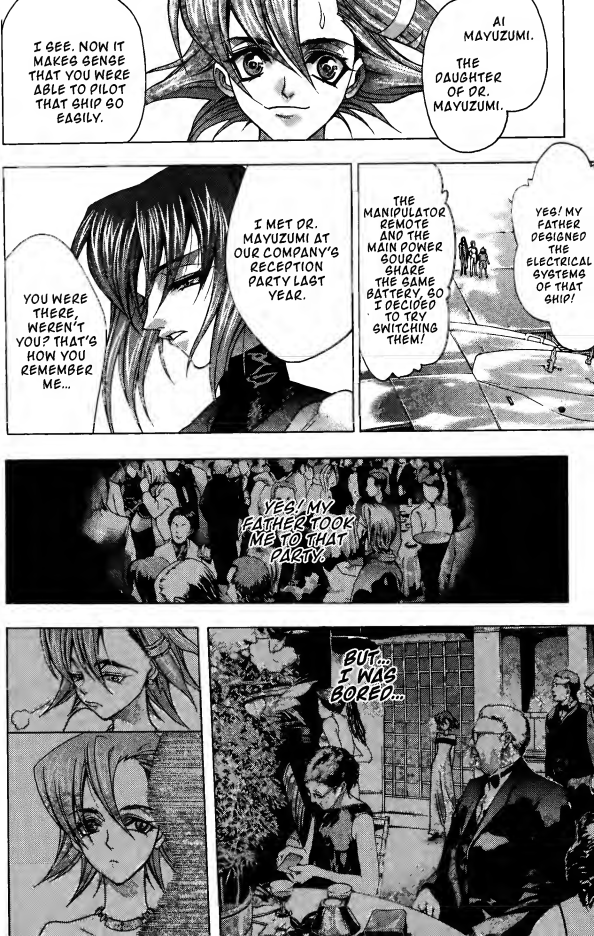

HE MUST BE THE SHOGUN.
CARON...
CARON'S ABILITY TO DECIDE WHEN TO GIVE IN, IT WAS IMPRESSIVE.
SHOGUN...!

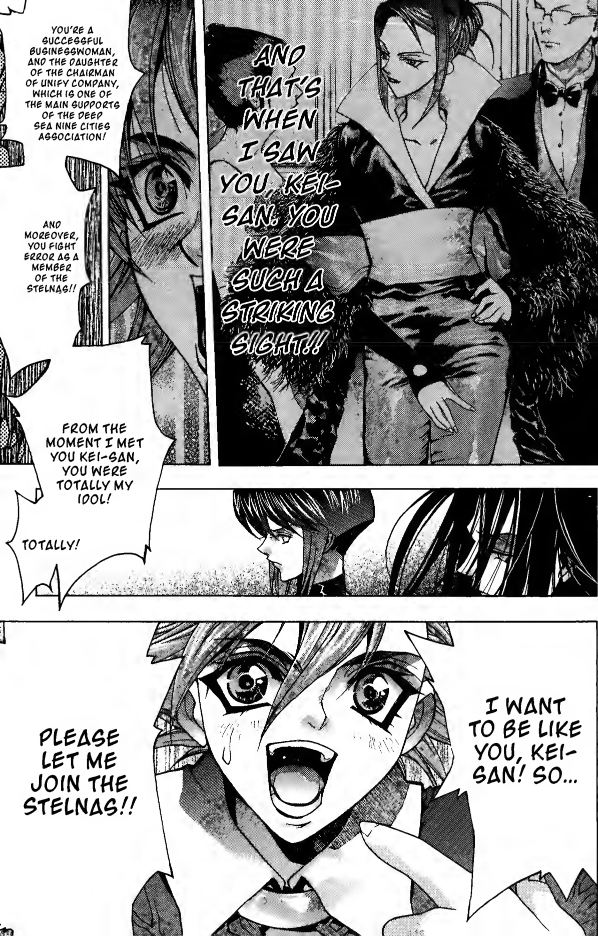

BUT HE FAILED HIS MISSION.
HE REFUSED TO DIE WITHOUT PURPOSE. THAT'S JUST LIKE HIM. A SHREWD DECISION.
YOU'RE TOO ACCOMMODATING!
IF HE SURVIVES, HE'LL DEFINITELY GET ANOTHER CHANCE.
WE...
OR RATHER, YOU, YOU DON'T HAVE TIME...
KYOHEI! YOU'RE PUTTING ME IN A BAD MOOD.
AH...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO...

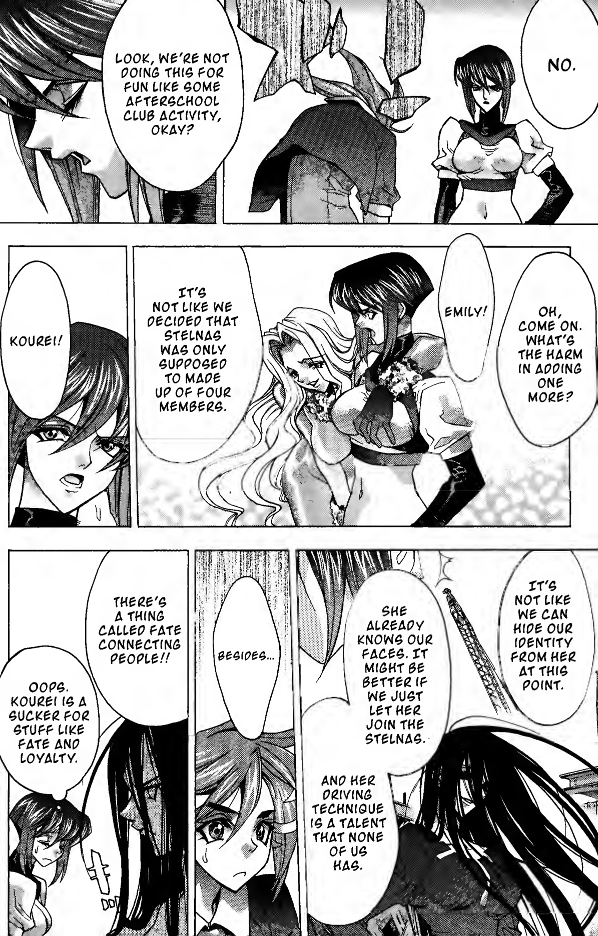

SHOGUN!!
I'M SORRY. I JUST LOST MY BALANCE...
I JUST WOKE UP, THAT'S ALL. I JUST HAVEN'T RETURNED TO PEAK AWARENESS YET.
I'M FINE.

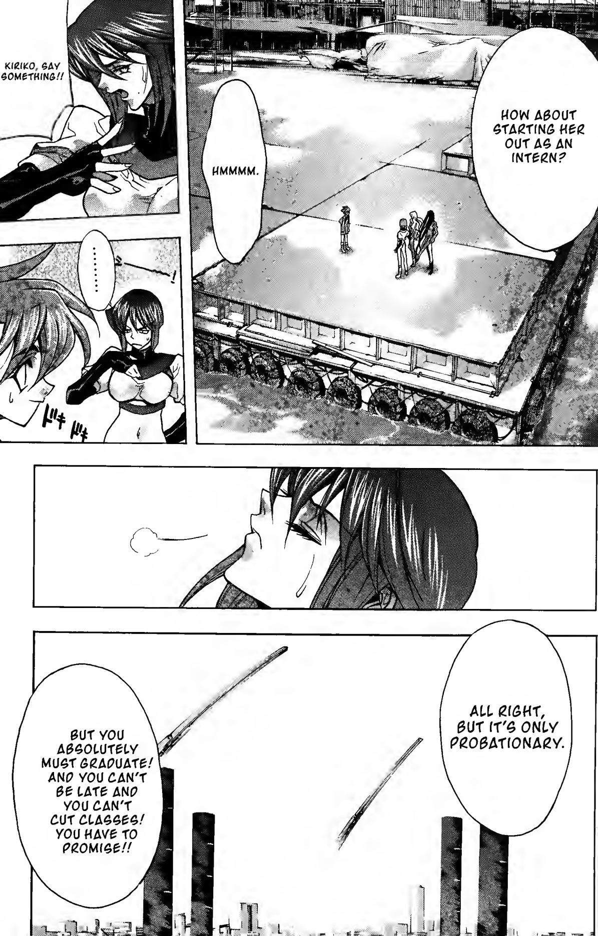

I KNOW THAT YOU'RE WATCHING OUT FOR MY HEALTH.
AND THAT'S WHY... I NEED TO HURRY... I DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE IN VAIN.
KYOHEI.
YEAH.
WE WILL RECOVER THE DATA THAT WAS INTERCEPTED BY THE STELNAS.
EVEN IF WE HAVE TO SUFFER CASUALTIES...
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.

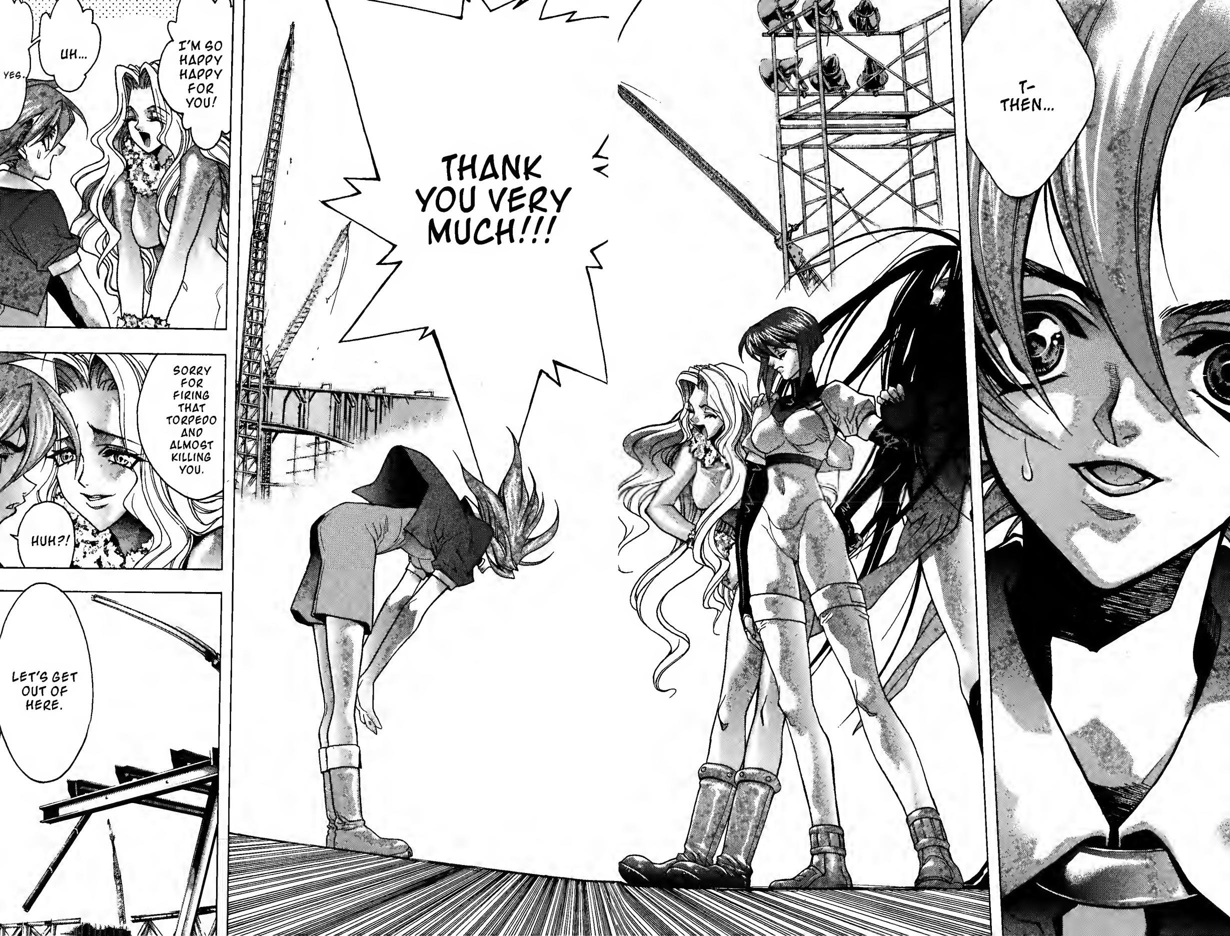


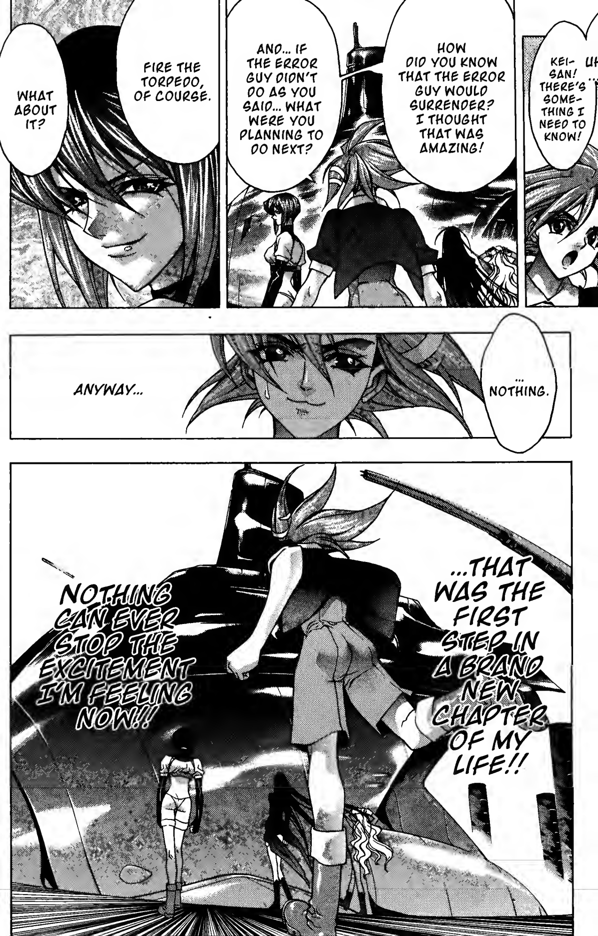

AI MAYUZUMI.
THE DAUGHTER OF DR. MAYUZUMI.
I SEE. NOW IT MAKES SENSE THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO PILOT THAT SHIP SO EASILY.
YES! MY FATHER DESIGNED THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS OF THAT SHIP!
THE MANIPULATOR REMOTE AND THE MAIN POWER SOURCE SHARE THE SAME BATTERY, SO I DECIDED TO TRY SWITCHING THEM!
I MET DR. MAYUZUMI AT OUR COMPANY'S RECEPTION PARTY LAST YEAR.
YOU WERE THERE, WEREN'T YOU? THAT'S HOW YOU REMEMBER ME...
YES! MY FATHER TOOK ME TO THAT PARTY.
BUT... I WAS BORED...


AND THAT'S WHEN I SAW YOU, KEI-SAN. YOU WERE SUCH A STRIKING SIGHT!!
YOU'RE A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSWOMAN, AND THE DAUGHTER OF THE CHAIRMAN OF UNIFY COMPANY, WHICH IS ONE OF THE MAIN SUPPORTS OF THE DEEP SEA NINE CITIES ASSOCIATION!
AND MOREOVER, YOU FIGHT ERROR AS A MEMBER OF THE STELNAS!!
FROM THE MOMENT I MET YOU KEI-SAN, YOU WERE TOTALLY MY IDOL!
TOTALLY!
I WANT TO BE LIKE YOU, KEI-SAN! SO...
PLEASE LET ME JOIN THE STELNAS!!


NO.
LOOK, WE'RE NOT DOING THIS FOR FUN LIKE SOME AFTERSCHOOL CLUB ACTIVITY, OKAY?
OH, COME ON. WHAT'S THE HARM IN ADDING ONE MORE?
EMILY!
IT'S NOT LIKE WE DECIDED THAT STELNAS WAS ONLY SUPPOSED TO MADE UP OF FOUR MEMBERS.
KOUREI!
IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN HIDE OUR IDENTITY FROM HER AT THIS POINT.
SHE ALREADY KNOWS OUR FACES. IT MIGHT BE BETTER IF WE JUST LET HER JOIN THE STELNAS.
AND HER DRIVING TECHNIQUE IS A TALENT THAT NONE OF US HAS.
BESIDES...
THERE'S A THING CALLED FATE CONNECTING PEOPLE!!
OOPS. KOUREI IS A SUCKER FOR STUFF LIKE FATE AND LOYALTY.


HOW ABOUT STARTING HER OUT AS AN INTERN?
HMMMM.
KIRIKO, SAY SOMETHING!!
....
ジー!
ドキ ドキ
ALL RIGHT, BUT IT'S ONLY PROBATIONARY.
BUT YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST GRADUATE! AND YOU CAN'T BE LATE AND YOU CAN'T CUT CLASSES! YOU HAVE TO PROMISE!!


T-THEN...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!
I'M SO HAPPY HAPPY FOR YOU!
UH...
YES...
SORRY FOR FIRING THAT TORPEDO AND ALMOST KILLING YOU.
HUH?!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.


KEI-SAN! THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO KNOW!
UH...
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT THE ERROR GUY WOULD SURRENDER? I THOUGHT THAT WAS AMAZING!
AND... IF THE ERROR GUY DIDN'T DO AS YOU SAID... WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING TO DO NEXT?
FIRE THE TORPEDO, OF COURSE.
WHAT ABOUT IT?
... NOTHING.
ANYWAY...
...THAT WAS THE FIRST STEP IN A BRAND NEW CHAPTER OF MY LIFE!!
NOTHING CAN EVER STOP THE EXCITEMENT I'M FEELING NOW!!

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